The North-Eastern Daily Gazette.

ESTABLISHED 1869. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1891. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Public Companies & Investments

SUBSCRIPTION LIST opened TO-DAY (MONDAY), 16th February, at 10 a.m., and will close on or before THURSDAY, 19th February, at 4 p.m., for London and country.

SECURITIES INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

Liability of members is limited to the amount of their shares.

Capital.....£1,000,000.

Capital consists of 1,910 each, and 500 Founders' Shares of £1 each.

First issue.....£500,500.

Preference Shares, which have been fully subscribed for and allotted, and 50,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each.

PAYABLE:

5s per Share on Application.

5s " " Allotment.

5s " " 4th April, 1891.

10s " " 4th April, 1891.

Calls may be made at any time, but not more than one call in any month, and not exceeding £10 per share in the whole of their shares.

Interest will be allowed on calls paid up before the day appointed for payment thereof.

The Directors may, if they think fit, receive from any of the members willing to advance the same, all or any part of the money due upon the shares beyond the sums actually called up, and upon the money so paid or satisfied in advance, or so much thereof as from time to time exceeds the amount of the calls then made upon the shares in respect of which such advance has been made, the Company may pay interest at such rate not exceeding, without the sanction of the Company in General Meeting, five per cent. per annum, as the Directors may agree upon.

The Directors may at any time repay to any shareholder willing to receive the same, either wholly or in part, the money so advanced, without premium or allowance, but no such repayment shall relieve the shareholder from his liability in respect of any call or calls not yet made.

The Directors may make arrangements on the issue of shares for a difference between the holders of such shares in the amount of calls to be paid and in the time of payment of such calls.

If the Directors shall see fit, they may receive from any of the members willing to advance the same, all or any part of the money due upon the shares held by them beyond the sums actually called for

Sales by Auction.

SOUTH STOCKTON.
IMPORTANT SALE OF 23 HOUSES.

MESSRS BARNES AND BARNES have been favoured with instructions from the proprietor, who has removed from the town, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Roker Hotel, South Stockton, on TUESDAY, February 24th, at 6 p.m. prompt:—

Lot 1.—The Ten Well-built DWELLING-HOUSES, Nos 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, and 27, Francis-street, South Stockton, containing four rooms each, with yard and out-offices. Rental £110 10s per annum.

Lot 2.—The block of Seven FREEHOLD HOUSES, Nos. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15, Hibernia-street, South Stockton. Similar to preceding properties as regards area, rental, and accommodation.

Lot 3.—The block of SIX FREEHOLD HOUSES, Nos. 3, 5, 7, and 9, Caledonia-street, and the two End Houses, 17, Hibernia street, and 18, Lumsdon-street. They are also similar to Lots 1 and 2.

The properties are all well let to good tenants.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Auctioneers, 28, Sunniside, Sunderland; to MESSRS KIDSON, MCKENZIES, AND KIDSON, Solicitors, Sunderland;

Or, MESSRS HUNTON AND HUNTON, Solicitors, Stockton-on-Tees.

OBSERVE!

SALE BY AUCTION, in the Central Hall, Redcar, on MONDAY, February 16th, of the valuable Ancient and Modern HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Pure ships and Appointments of Newcomen House, Coatham, belonging to Mrs Garbutt, who is leaving the district. On view morning of sale. Sale to commence at one o'clock precisely. Full detailed particulars in large sale bills, to be had on application at the Auctioneer's Offices, Redcar and Middlesbrough.

CATALOGUES of the Sale of Superior HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, which will be SOLD BY AUCTION, on TUESDAY, February 17th, by SAMUEL LITHGOW, at the Granville Auction Mart, Middlesbrough.

Sale at 1.30 prompt.

1 to 25 Sundry Kitchen Goods.
26 Pair China Candelabras, Pair China Figures, Ditto.
27 Pair Candlesticks, Pair Japanese Trays, Pair Japanese Fans.
32 Three Painted Glasses for photos.
33 Bronzed Bracket, Child's Sw ng.
35 Brass Jardinière; Pair Brackets, glass panels.
37 Fender, fire irons.
39 Flower Stand, 4 Chromos, 2 Engravings.
42 Five Oil Paintings, "Landscapes."
43 Mahogany-frame Rocking Chair, hair stuffed, covered in morone skin.
44 Easy Chair, hair stuffed, covered in cretonne.
45 Pair Mahogany Duchesse Tables, jewel drawers and glass attached; Marble-top Washstand—all on casters.
46 Brass and Iron French Bedstead; Wire Mattress.
48 Heather Bed.
49 9ft. Walnut Wardrobe, fitted with dress pegs and drawer under, with looking-glass centre door.
50 Oval Walnut Occasional Table.
51 Black and Gold Frame Chimney Glass.
52 First-class WALNUT-FRAME DINING-ROOM SUITE, comprising couch, lady's and gent's easy chairs, and 6 small chairs, all spring seats, covered in morone skin.
53 Pair of handsome Plush Brackets, glass panels.
54 Solid Walnut Dining Table with 2 loose leaves, opening to 8ft.
55 9ft. Walnut Secretaire Bookcase, with 2 glass doors, cupboard under, and fall writing leaf.
56 Three-tier Walnut Dinner Waggon.
57 Album, morone plush case; Pair Paintings, plush frames.
59 Walnut-frame Mirror, with bevel-edge glass panels.
60 Set of 3 Ornaments, Needlework Cushion.
62 9ft. Mahogany Sideboard, fitted with drawers and cupboards, with looking-glass back-over.
63 Brass Shaped Cornice for bay window.
64 ASH AND WALNUT BEDROOM SUITE, comprising 6ft. Wardrobe, fitted with dress pegs, drawers, and cupboards, with 2 bevel-edge glass doors; dress ng table with swing-glass attached; marble-top washstand, fitted and glass panel back; pedestal, 3 cane-seat chairs, and towel rail.
65 Walnut Hall Chair and Steps combined.
66 Walnut-frame Suite, comprising couch, lady's and gent's easy chairs, and 6 small chairs, covered in figured velvet.
67 Folding Japanese Screen.
68 Four Oak-frame Chairs, covered in morone skin.
69 Mahogany Hall-seated Sofa.
70 Marble Chimpiece, 4 Plant Pots.
72 MASSIVE 6ft. MAHOGANY SIDEBOARD, fitted with drawers and cupboards with a lofty looking-glass panelled back over; all finely carved.
73 Mahogany Night Commode Set of Mahogany Steps.
75 Pair Mahogany Duchesse Tables, jewel drawers and swing glass attached and marble-top washstand.
76 Mahogany Towel Rail; Fender and Fire-irons.
78 Gent's Dressing Bag, fitted complete; ditto.
80 WALNUT-CASE FULL COMPASS IRON-FRAME COTTAGE PIANO, by Avill and Smart.
81 Pair Chromos; Fender and Fire-irons.
82 Dining-room Suite, comprising couch, lady's and gent's easy chairs, and small chairs, covered in saddle bags.
84 Bedstead, Bed, and Bedding.
85 WALNUT CHINA CABINET, fitted with shelves and cupboards, with lofty looking-glass back over.
86 Brass and Iron Parisian Bedstead, with cretonne hanging and wire mattress.
88 Eider-Down quilt.
89 Walnut Bed-room Suite, comprising: Wardrobe fitted with dress pegs, glass centre door, dressing table with glass attached, marble-top washstand, 3 cane-seat chairs, pedestal, and towel rail.
90 Sewing Machine by Bradbury and Co.
91 16½ yards of Brussels Carpet.
92 Walnut Hat and Umbrella Stand.
93 Mahogany Hat and Umbrella Stand.
94 Bagatelle Board, Bedsteps, Commode.

Sale in the evening at 6.30 prompt of general Household Furniture, Shoemaker's Sewing Machine, Table Piano, &c.

R. H. FOSTER, Auctioneer and Valuer, 33, Mr. Newport-rd, Middlesbrough Yarm-lane, Stockton; Bridge-road, Yarm.

WM. LAMBERT, Auctioneer, Valuer, House and Estate Agent. Offices and Sale Rooms 3, Bishop-street, Stockton-on-Tees.

Shipping and Emigration.

EMIGRATION. Inman, Allan, White Star, Beaver, Dominion, Australian, New Zealand, and African Lines—Agent, W. H. KEAY, Sussex-st., Mbro'.

STEAM WEEKLY BETWEEN SUNDERLAND AND LONDON.—S.S. GENERAL HAVELOCK leaves SAT.- Feb. 21, at 2 p.m.; returns Victor a Wharf, London, next WED. Feb. 25; Can is and 12s returns as and 13s. W. H. THOMPSON John street Sunderland

REGULAR STEAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HULL AND THE TEES.
The s.s. "G INGLE" (400 tons) will sail from HULL every Saturday, taking goods at through rates, for Middlesbrough Stockton and District, returning to Hull every Tuesday (circumstances permitting).
For freight and further particulars apply to W. H. Hutchinson & Son, Hull; J. M. Leonard & Sons, Middlesbrough, or to William Martin, Corporation Wharf, Stockton-on-Tees.

ABERDEEN, NEWCASTLE, AND HULL STEAM SHIPPING CO.
NEW WEEKLY SERVICE
BETWEEN ABERDEEN, MIDDLESBROUGH, AND LEITH.
The s.s. Alexander Firic, or other steamer, is intended to leave Aberdeen for Middlesbrough Every Saturday, and Middlesbrough for Leith and Aberdeen Every Tuesday (unless prevented by weather or other unforeseen circumstances), taking cargo and passengers.
For full particulars and fares apply to Wm. Shirving, Regent Quay, Aberdeen; G. Hemerton, 64, Constitution-street, Leith; or to HENRY SMITH AND CO., Post Office Numbers, Middlesbrough-on-Tees

STEAM TWICE A WEEK BETWEEN LONDON AND THE TEES.
THE TEES UNION SHIPPING CO'S Steamers sail from FREE TRADE WHARF, Ratcliff, London, of which wharf the Company are proprietors, every Tuesday and every Saturday afternoon at four o'clock, taking goods for Middlesbrough and Stockton and adjacent towns, and sailing each Wednesday and Saturday for London (unless prevented by any unforeseen circumstances).
Moderate charges in London. Easy rates for freight and wharfage. Regularity in sailing. Prompt despatch of goods insured by shipping and through Bills of Lading. Classification lists and rates on application. A limited number of Passengers carried by each steamer. Passage money should be applied for to the Company. Any further information may be had on application to the Company's Offices, Middlesbrough or Stockton.

Dentistry.

TEETH EXTRACTED,
MR BUCK, THE PEOPLE'S DENTIST,
9, East-street, and 35, Grange-road, Middlesbro'. 2

HUGHES, DENTIST,
STOCKTON—Top of High-street,
MIDDLESBROUGH—46, Newport-road.
See Country Appointments in Friday's paper.

TEETH! ARTIFICIAL TEETH!
DR. SALT, D.D.S.,
DENTAL SURGEON,
32, NEWPORT-ROAD, MIDDLESBROUGH,
AND AT
SCARBOROUGH-STREET, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Teeth from 5s 6d each. Sets from £4 4s warranted.
Teeth extracted painlessly by Nitrous Oxide Gas, 5s.

MR FRAS. BONE,
SURGEON DENTIST,
27, Corporation-road (Near New Town Hall), Mbro'.
ARTIFICIAL TEETH at charges to suit the means of all classes. Patent Prize Mineral Teeth from 2/6 per tooth. Fit and Comfort guaranteed. Country Patients attended at their own residence by appointment without extra charge. Reduced Fees to Servants. Special attention given to those unfortunate enough to have badly fitting sets of Teeth. Success guaranteed
TEETH EXTRACTED IS EACH.
Decayed Teeth carefully stopped, scaled, and regulated. Teeth supplied by other Dentists repaired on the shortest notice. Attendance daily.

S. DARBYSHIRE'S PURE TEA.

FINE,	THE	FINE,
FRAGRANT,	CUP	FRAGRANT,
FAULTLESS,	OF	FAULTLESS,
1/10.	HEALTH.	1/10.

48, LINTHORPE-ROAD,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT
SOPPET, 52, LINTHORPE-ROAD,
Has the Largest and Best STOCK of
WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELLERY, AND SILVER GOODS in the Town.

The most efficient staff of workmen in the North.
All work done on the premises. No Apprentices kept

SMITH'S PIANOS, 179, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER.
PIANOS (new) from 10s 6d monthly } TILL
ORGANS " 5s 6d " } PAID
HARMONIUMS " 5s " } FOR
Second-hand instruments at lower rates.
Nothing supplied but what is of the highest quality.
Delivered free within 100 miles on receipt of first month's hire.
Write or send for price list (post free), or, what is better still, call on SMITH personally if possible.
Railway fare allowed to country customers.

Money and Insurance.

WILLIAM EATON,
PAWNBROKER AND SILVERSMITH,
22 & 24, ALBERT-STREET, MIDDLESBROUGH,
Cash Advanced to any amount on Gold and Silver, Plate, Jewellery, Deeds, Bonds, and every other description of Negotiable Security at the low & possible rate of interest. 5 per cent all over and on Deposits at call. Estab shed 53 years.

SUMS of Money at 5 per cent.; book debts purchased. Mr Taylor, 55, Albert-road, Middlesbrough.

CASH in Advance, from £5 to £500. Apply to H. H. Foster, 33, Newport-road, Middlesbrough.

LOANS, £2 upwards; reasonable repayments; easy terms. J. Richards n, 16, Priestgate, Darlington.

TRUST and other Moneys to Lend on Mortgage from 4 per cent. J. T. Kay, Solicitor, West Hartlepool.

MONEY Lent at 5 per cent.; Trade Bills discounted. W. Tonnet, 44, Albert-road, Middlesbrough.

MONEY Lent by Carlton Bank, Ltd.; favourable terms. W. Sudlow, 13, Nelson-terrace, Stockton. 417

MONEY Lent—£2 to £500. H. Simons, 66, Grange-road West, Middlesbrough, corner of Road at 8pt

THE safest place for respectable people to get a loan on reasonable terms without delay is at J. Willoy's, 24, Wharf-street, Stockton.

PRIVATE Advances from £2 upwards on personal security. For terms apply W. T. Foxall, 1, Station-street, Mbro'. Hours: 9 to 1; 5 to 7; Saturday, 9 to 1.

SEVERAL Sums of Money at 4 per cent. to advance on Mortgage. Crosby, Farmer, and Crosby, Stockton-on-Tees.

MONEY Lent, at half the interest charged by others, without delay; no fees. M. Cohen, 9, Wellington-street, Stockton opposite the Public Library. 417

CASH Advanced on personal security, repayable by easy instalments. Trade bills discounted. A. Levy, Chester House, Stockton.

LOANS.—£5 and upwards; easy repayments; strict privacy. Apply North Riding Financial Company, 85, Albert-road, Middlesbrough.

VARIOUS Sums ready to be Advanced on Freehold property. Apply T. Lewis, Solicitor, Zetland-road, Middlesbrough. 18

GUISBOROUGH AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY, established 1873, and incorporated. For particulars apply to W. ROBINSON, 55, Redcar-road, Guisborough.

MONEY privately advanced from £10 upwards at reasonable interest, payable at convenience, with or without sureties. Apply by letter to J. Wilson, 28, Durham-street, Middlesbrough.

THOSE in Want of Cash (Farmers, Clergymen, Professional Gentlemen, and others) should apply for immediate advances of £10 upwards to H. Benjamin, 19, Albert-road, Middlesbrough; no fees; no publicity.

PRIVATE.—Cash Advanced on note of hand or any other sufficient security; distance no object; terms most reasonable. Trade bills discounted. Apply to Mr J. Wilks, No. 1, Zetland-road, Middlesbrough.

MONEY Lent.—Applications from town or country invited for loans from £5; terms favourable; privacy guaranteed. Carlton Bank, 1, Station-street, Middlesbrough Hours—9 to 1, 5 to 7; Saturdays 9 to 1.

NORTH-EASTERN Loan Office, 1, Granville-ter., Moor Boadgate, Darlington.—Loans from £5 to £1,000; reasonable charges; easy repayments; strictly private. Jacob Scholl, Manager.

HOUSE Furniture Covered against Fire for 2/- per £100. If your children dust they will fire your neighbours' possibly may. Apply J. H. Taylor, Queen's-square, Middlesbrough. 14

AU KLAND UNION PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY. Estab 1857. ADVANCES £25 at 5 per cent. Capital repaid Monthly or by fixed sums Half-yearly. Solicitors and inspectors fees moderate. Geo. Shillman, 95, North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland.

MONEY.—A Gentleman of Private Means is willing to make Advances from £10 upwards upon Note of hand alone, at moderate rates of interest. Apply in first instance, by LETTER ONLY, to J. P., Chatham Villa Office, 4, North Albert-street, Middlesbrough.

CASH Advanced on Personal Security, repayable by easy instalments, to suit convenience of borrowers, at reasonable rates. No fees to pay. Trade bills discounted. Communications strictly private. Address MANAGER, 93, Albert-road, Middlesbrough.

£10 to £1,000 Advanced to Ladies and Gentlemen of position, or persons holding responsible appointments; any distance; *bona-fide* advt.; prospectus free; persons with ability to pay need only apply. F. Greenwood, Alaine-court, Sheffield.

THE QUEEN'S BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY. SUBSCRIPTIONS received Daily, in such sum as may be convenient to Subscribers, or Depositors. No Entrance Fees, and no Fines to Subscribers or Depositors. Offices: 93, High-street, Stockton. (Estab. 1875.) THOS. BRADLEY, Secretary.

JOHN HARRISON, Pawnbroker and Jeweller.—The Square, Stockton; 24, Mandale-road, South Stockton; 5, Bolckow-street, Middlesbrough; 5, Cleveland-street, Middlesbrough. Cash advanced on Gold and Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Deeds, Shares, Pianos, Furniture, and every other description of Property. mal5

MONEY Lent Without Bill of Sale.—A Private Gentleman desires to lend money upon Promissory Note alone, at 5 per cent. interest, to male or female, without sureties and strictly private, for any term not exceeding 10 years. Apply for particulars to G. H. Snove, Esq., 21, John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

MONEY Lent upon Note of Hand Alone.—A Gentleman is desirous of making Advances from £5 upwards, at Five per Cent. Interest, to male or female in town or country, without Bill of Sale or Sureties, and strictly private, for any period not exceeding ten years. Apply to D. D. Williams, Esq., 15, York-road, Waterloo Bridge, London, S.E.

THE LEEDS PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.—No entrance fees, premium, or office expenses. Shares can be taken, advances arranged for, and all information on application to the Agent, W. F. Oldfield, at 6 Lodge-room, Oddfellows' Hall, Middlesbrough, on Tuesday, the 17th inst., from 5.30 to 7 p.m.

NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION (LIMITED).
CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED AND PAID UP £600,000,
With power to increase to £2,000,000.
HEAD OFFICE: 40, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
WEST END OFFICE: 54, Cockspur-street, S.W.
EDINBURGH OFFICE: 23 St. Andrew-square.
DUBLIN OFFICE: 6, Paamure-street.
BRANCHES AND AGENCIES—Australia, India, Ceylon, China, Japan, Straits, Mauritius, Seychelles, Aden, Paris, New York, San Francisco, Zanzibar.
Money remitted to any part of the World by draft, letter of credit, or by telegraph. Bills of Exchange, Interest Warrants, and Coupons collected and cashed. Current Accounts opened, Deposits received, Loans negotiated, and every Banking Agency business generally undertaken.
INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS.
At 3 months' notice.....3 per cent. per annum.
At 6 months' notice.....4 " "
At 12 months' notice.....4½ " "
For 3, 5, or 7 years certain 5 " "

A MANCHESTER CAPITALIST, MEMBER of a well-known and WEALTHY FIRM, having a considerable sum of UNINVESTED MONEY, is prepared to ADVANCE THE SAME
SUMS of NOT LESS than £20 to £1,000 to persons of undoubted respectability,
ON THEIR OWN PROMISSORY NOTE, WITHOUT ASKING for SURETIES or SECURITY, at a
LOW and REASONABLE RATE of INTEREST, for short or long periods.
As this advertisement is not connected with any Loan Society it is requested that habitual borrowers will not apply.
For full particulars apply personally or by letter direct to the Solicitor,
ARTHUR WYNDHAM HADDON, Esq., 10, CORPORATION-STREET, MANCHESTER.

STRICTLY PRIVATE ADVANCES ON MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TERMS.
MR ARCHIBALD J. MILES, SOLICITOR, 20, JOHN-STREET, ADELPHI, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
Having a large amount of Capital placed at his disposal, is willing to advance same in sums of £50 to £5,000 AT ONCE,
ON APPLICANT'S OWN PROMISSORY NOTE,
To responsible persons (male or female) in town or country,
WITHOUT SURETIES, LAW COSTS, OR PUBLICITY, AT 5 PER CENT. INTEREST,
Repayable by easy instalments or in one sum, or can remain at interest (payable quarterly or half-yearly) as arranged.
The advantages of applying to a SOLICITOR or STANDING and repute in preference to advertising moneylenders, advance agencies, and loan societies will be unmistakably apparent to all.
For particulars apply personally or by letter, which will have prompt and personal attention.

ESTATE AND LOAN AGENCIES.
The grand secret of borrowing money is to know a thoroughly respectable office for the hour of need.
THE ROYAL CREDIT BANK, 7, COOKRIDGE-STREET, LEEDS.
This Bank, opened in 1875, was the first and only Bank established in the North for the purpose of affording temporary Cash Accommodation.
BORROWER'S NOTE OF HAND ALONE.
Advances made from £15 to £1,000 to all persons of respectability (Householders, most are females) in town or country, without sureties or bondsmen, delay, law costs, or publicity, repayable by easy instalments or in one sum, as arranged. Advances made on mortgage of leasehold or freehold property, reversions, &c., from one month to five years, at
5 PER CENT. INTEREST.
SPECIAL NOTICE.—The applicant, noted for its fair dealing and reasonable charges, is not connected with any advertising Loan Societies, and the usual objectionable Loan Office is entirely dispensed with. The strictest secrecy may safely be relied upon, and no good or genuine application is ever refused.
MR CHARLES HENRY JAMES, Manager.

A PERFECT FILTER. GIVING SPARKLING PURE WATER.
MORRIS'S NEW PATENT
CIRCULATING FILTER.
Gold Medal 1869. Silver Medal (Highest Award) 1879.
There are no Plugs, Screws, India-rubber Packing, or Asbestos Cloth. It can be cleaned as easily as a dish. This Filter is charged with Pulsator's Manganous Carbon, which can be renewed without returning the Filter to the Manufacturers.
Recommended by Professor Wanklyn, and other experts on water, as the most scientifically perfect filter ever offered to the public.
The *Lancet* of July 12, 1890, says:—"The Morris Patent 'Circulating' Filter is very ingenious, and must be ranked as one of the most scientific in principle and construction yet offered to the public. . . . We have subjected the filter to a rather severe qualitative test with results that were eminently satisfactory."
Cream Enamelled Stoneware Filter, 1 gall., 14/-; 2 gall, 22/6; 3 gall., 30/6; 4 gall., 35/-; 5 gall., 44/-; 6 gall., 51/- each. Carriage paid.
Testimonials, and full description of other Filters, &c., sent by post free on application.
MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE AGENTS,
BAKER BROTHERS, CORPORATION-ROAD, } *Opposite Lit. and Phil.*
MIDDLESBROUGH.

BRUCE'S Livery Stables, Harris-street. Telephone No. 5,168. Orders promptly attended to

INDIGESTION.—The MEDICAL REFORM SOCIETY will send FREE to all applicants an excellent BOTANIC CURE for Indigestion, Biliousness Liver Complaints, and Piles. Address—The Secretary BOTANIC INSTITUTE, NOTTINGHAM.

G. E. GREY, Joiner, 153, High-street, Stockton. Shop and her fittings. Funerals completely furnished on the most reasonable terms.

GET YOUR NAME ENGRAVEN ON BRASS.
THOMPSON BROTHERS, 55, New Bridge-street, NEWCASTLE, supply a BRASS NAME PLATE for door, 7 by 4 inches, for 5s; and 9 by 4½ for 6s 6d, and so on. They ILLUSTRATE CATALOGUES, Etch on every kind of Metal, Engrave Pictures, Portraits, or anything; make Rubber Stamps to order, but do not canvass for them. Silversmithing in all branches.

PEARS' SOAP PURE, FRAGRANT, REFRESHING FOR TOILET AND NURSERY.
EXHIBITION HONOURS.
16 International Awards of absolute Purity and absence of Alkali in Colouring.
Fair white hands.
Bright clear complexion.
Soft healthful skin.
PEARS' SOAP is specially prepared for the delicate skin of ladies and children and others sensitive to the weather, winter and summer. Prevents Redness, Roughness, and Chapping.
PEARS' SOAP.—Large Scented Tablets 1s; smaller (unscented), 6d. Insist on having Pears' as vilely injurious imitations are often substituted for extra gain.
Makers by Special Royal Appointment to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

Bargains Unprecedented
Bargains Unprecedented
Bargains Unprecedented

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY.
FOR ONE WEEK ONLY.
FOR ONE WEEK ONLY.

YOUR CHOICE OF
£15,000
WORTH OF DRAPERIES
(CALICOES EXCEPTED)
AT A DISCOUNT OF
3/- IN THE £ FOR CASH
AT
J. NEWHOUSE'S
DRAPERY WAREHOUSE,
WILSON-STREET.
FIRST SALE DAY FEBRUARY 14.

EPPS'S (BREAKFAST) COCOA. GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING. MADE SIMPLY WITH BOILING WATER OR MILK.

SUNLIGHT. SUNLIGHT. SUNLIGHT. SUNLIGHT. SUNLIGHT. SUNLIGHT SOAP. SUNLIGHT SOAP. SUNLIGHT SOAP. SUNLIGHT SOAP. SUNLIGHT SOAP. SUNLIGHT SOAP. SUNLIGHT SOAP. SUNLIGHT SOAP.

CERTAIN unscrupulous Soap Manufacturers, jealous of the great success of the "Sunlight Soap," have attempted to obtain a share of our trade by making Soaps of similar appearance to ours, and trying to palm them off as the Sunlight. No other Soap Manufacturer can make "Sunlight" Soap, and every attempt to do so must result in failure.
BEWARE!!
Do not allow other Soaps, said to be the same as the "Sunlight" Soap," to be palmed off upon you. If you do, you must expect to be disappointed.
See that you get what you ask for, and that the word "Sunlight" is stamped upon every wrapper.
Don't buy adulterated Soaps, paying for water at the price of Soap. Many do not know the difference between a pure Soap and one adulterated, because they have never tried a genuine Soap.
One trial is enough.

SPECTACLES.—Woodroffe's Improve the Sight; clear, cool, best lenses. 20 years' practical opician. 58, High-street, Stockton.

THE SKIN. GLORY OF WOMAN. PRIDE OF MAN.
THE SKIN. ALBION MILK AND SULPHUR SOAP. Purest, most emollient and most delicate
THE SKIN. of all Soaps, giving to the skin that softness and clearness so desired by all. It is
THE SKIN. invaluable for children, and unrivalled
THE SKIN. for the complexion. The very best Shaving Soap, as it will never irritate the
THE SKIN. most delicate skin. Delicately perfumed. Sold by all dealers in Perfumery in Toilet Tablets and Shaving Cakes,

£1,500,000 OFF THE TEA DUTY!!!
TEA 2d PER LB. CHEAPER!!!
SEE YOU GET YOUR TWOPENCE!!!
"OHANGHEE" HEALTH TEA!!!
"OHANGHEE" HEALTH TEA!!!
"OHANGHEE" HEALTH TEA!!!
"OHANGHEE," Everyone should at least TRY IT, if for no other reason than
"OHANGHEE," that of ascertaining the excellence of its *enticing new Qualities*
"OHANGHEE," THE HEALTH TEA OF THE DAY!!!
"OHANGHEE," CURE FOR HEADACHES!!!
"OHANGHEE," The number of unsolicited testimonials we have already received and the *enormously rapid and ever-increasing weekly sale* amply prove the popularity of "Ohanghee."
"OHANGHEE," PACKED IN AIR-TIGHT LEAD PACKETS. *(All Sizes.)*
"OHANGHEE," 2/- now 1/10. 2/8 now 2/6.
"OHANGHEE," Ask your Grocer for it.
Sold Everywhere by
"OHANGHEE," All leading Grocers and Tea Dealers.
"OHANGHEE," Large Consumers Supplied on Special Terms.

AGENTS FOR "OHANGHEE" TEA.
E. Bowser, Denmark-street, Middlesbro'.
Wm. Walker, Newport, Middlesbro'.
Thos. Barker, Westward-street, Middlesbro'.
Wm. Palmer, Hunter-street & Scalby-street, Middlesbro'.
H. M. Harrington, West-street, Middlesbro'.
J. H. Dando, Cannon-street, Middlesbro'.
H. Cartwright, Emerson-street, North Ormesby.
E. Perton, North-street, South Bank.
E. Cotterill, York-street, South Bank.
Wm. Morfoot, Nelson-street, South Bank.
Wm. Denny, Nelson-street, South Bank.
Thos. Foster, Grangetown, South Bank.
Hy. Mealing, Warrenby, Redcar.
F. W. Brookbanks, Coatham, Redcar.
S. Agerolo, High-street, Redcar.
John Turnbull, Redcar.
John Turnbull, Saltburn.
John Turnbull, South Bank

SOLE WHOLESALE AGENTS:
HENRY JOHNSON & SONS,
WHOLESALE GROCERS,
WEST HARTLEPOOL.

North-Eastern Daily Gazette.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1891.

PARTY GOVERNMENT.

OUR modern political life, though a native growth, owes not a little to external agencies and forces. The experience of ancient Greece and Rome is woven into the texture of our Constitution. Many of the principles of the art of government taught by the philosophers of Athens operate in our modern political being, and Roman law lies at the basis of our practical administration. Our obligations to the Reformation are even greater. That movement, with its doctrine of individual responsibility and of personal freedom as the condition and reward of the exercise of individual responsibility, gave political liberty a fresh starting point and higher aims; and the French Revolution, though sadly mismanaged and self-discredited by the excesses it let loose, communicated additional impulse to the development of democratic authority. But in the political as in the natural world the law of action and of reaction holds good; and if we have received aid from Greece, Italy, France, and the Continent generally in former days we are now and have for some time been giving them help and guidance in return. The British Constitution is the constant subject of study by the more ardent-minded political students and the lovers of liberty in the different European States; and in several countries, notably among the descendants and representatives of the peoples identified with the older civilisations, the sincerest form of flattery has been paid the British Constitution. From time to time in Greece and in Italy, and to some extent in Spain and France, attempts have been made by political reformers to introduce the British system wholesale or, at all events, to construct new Constitutions on the British model.

One feature of our British system of government even the closest of our Continental imitators have as yet failed to appropriate or to develop. Parties do not readily solidify in European legislatures seeking the development of constitutional government, and when they are constructed they are not characterised by tenacity of life. In France we have a Right and a Left, but each section is divided and subdivided into many groups; and while at times the Right and Left Centres seem to be more in agreement than the extreme wings of either section with the party whose name they bear, Ministerial combinations become kaleidoscopic in their nature—everything by turns but nothing long. In Spain before the last Monarchial restoration the Republic exhausted itself by the number and variety of the forms and types it adopted in its search for perfection. In Greece there has been for many years a superfluity of parties, and in political and Ministerial combinations the Athenians have afforded, and continue to afford, fresh illustrations of their proverbial fickleness. Even in Italy, where the British model has been more closely followed than perhaps in any other Continental country, where Constitutional Government has been kept under better control, and has in consequence exhibited a more orderly development, a complete breakdown of the party system has lately occurred. A general election held in the late autumn seemed to result in a triumphant victory for Signor Crispi and the Ministerialist party and policy. But already the great Ministerialist party has been broken up. Signor Crispi has been dismissed from power; and though the portion or aspect of his policy which commended itself to the electorates—that is to say, the maintenance of Italy in the position of one of the great Powers of Europe in virtue of its alliance with Germany and Austria, and of the strength of its own army and fleet—will doubtless be continued, it seems highly probable that the country is about to enter upon a period of Ministerialist crises on account of the failure of party solidarity. The people and their representatives will remain in favour of the Central League, while willing to cultivate friendly relations with France, and anxious to keep the national expenditure within the limits of the annual revenue; but though a general agreement as to policy may prevail, there seems little prospect of the maintenance of the party cohesion necessary to sustain the Ministry formed to give effect to the generally accepted policy. The conflict of personal ambition and the rivalry of coteries threaten to prove fatal to party loyalty, and there is a great danger that the failure of party loyalty will bring constitutional government in Italy to the brink of political chaos, as it has already done in Greece, in Spain, and in France.

We are not blind worshippers of the party system. We like to see individual political independence. Our ideal member of Parliament is the man who

Dares to stand alone;
Dares to have a purpose firm,
And dares to make is known—

a man competent to judge of the questions brought before the House without the aid of a party leader, and brave enough to vote in accordance with his convictions, even in opposition to the party whip. We are inclined to think that the business of the country would be more expeditiously and more satisfactorily performed if there was the same freedom from party organisation and from party spirit in the Imperial Parliament as is displayed in our Municipal Corporations, and if every question that presented itself was viewed from the standpoint of national advantage, and not of party interest. We should like to see realised the ideal patriotism of the age of gold when none will be for a party, and all will be for the State. But in view of the political confusion periodically caused and the discredit cast upon constitutional government by the recurrence of Ministerial crises in Continental countries, we had better perhaps bear with patience the ills we have. And let us remember, too, that the best of our English statesmen who are most convinced of the indispensibility of the party system—the political leaders who know the season when to take occasion by the hand—have shown that at the call of national advantage they can rise above party claims and considerations. A striking illustration of this high-minded patriotism was given when a few years ago Lord Salisbury and Mr Gladstone went into conference and settled for the time being the franchise question on the basis of a uniform household suffrage for the county and borough elector. And it is not impossible that before many years or even months go past we may witness a somewhat similar arrangement for the settlement of the Irish Home Rule question. Mr Gladstone has more than once advocated, and has even more than once attempted to promote, a settlement of this question on a national and not on a party basis; and after the next general election it may be found that the Tory leaders are less indisposed to respond to his overtures than they have hitherto shown themselves. In this land of "settled government," "where freedom broadens slowly down from precedent to precedent," we are entitled to look for higher and happier developments of the constitutional system than are yet possible to our Continental imitators. At all events, it seems possible and necessary for us at times to honour and vindicate party government by the breach rather than by the slavish observance of the party system.

THE news from Chili is becoming worse every day. The ordinary means of communication are closed against the correspondents and news agents, but from time to time private information leaks out which tells of the spread of political chaos. A special messenger of the firm of Messrs Balfour, Williamson, and Co., of Liverpool, who has travelled from their Valparaiso house on horseback across the Andes telegraphs from Mendoza, in the Argentine Republic, that both politically and financially affairs in Chili are in a very sorry condition; and other intelligence received at Buenos Ayres announces a complete defeat of the Government troops at Tarapaca.

GENERAL SHERMAN, whose death is announced to-day, was one of the most prominent heroes of the American Civil War. But for his aid as leader of the Western army which cut off the principal Confederate force under General Lee from its base of supply, General Grant would not have succeeded in the campaign which broke down the Southern opposition and ended the war. The military genius with which he was endowed was perhaps even greater than that possessed by his chief; and at the conclusion of the war he preferred soldiering to statesmanship. He remained with the army and became its commander-in-chief, and as a military strategist and administrator he became well known in Europe, being held in special respect by the Germans. The American army is not large, but it is very fit, and for its efficiency and its adaptability to its peculiar requirements it owes not a little to the genius and loyalty of General Sherman.

THE Welsh Liberals are very much in earnest about the Disestablishment question being brought to the forefront. The Executive of the North Wales Liberal Federation have passed a series of resolutions which all mean business. In the first place, they have agreed to conduct a vigorous campaign both in England and Wales in view of the general election. They have further resolved to communicate with the Liberal Whips, asking the support of the leaders of the Liberal party and of the members of the party to Mr Pritchard Morgan's motion, as such support will be regarded in Wales as "an indication of the treatment which the question of Welsh Disestablishment will receive in the forthcoming Liberal Parliament." These resolutions, we are confident, will be endorsed by the great body of the English Liberals, and will command also the approval of the Liberal leaders. The Liberal Unionist leaders are the men who are really standing between the Welsh people and justice.

THE trades' demonstration in Middlesbrough yesterday justified all that we ventured to predict regarding it. The attendance was large, the speaking was intelligent and reasonable, and the proceedings were orderly. Trades' demonstrations so conducted cannot fail to impress the public mind in favour of the claims of labour, and at the same time prove of great educational value to the workmen who take part in them. They both show and teach the capacity for fair intelligent argument, in which both sides of a question are looked at, and the power of self-restraint; and they tend to that cultivation of moderation which is commonly associated with firmness. The Scotch delegates yesterday reported that many ministers were taking the side of the workmen against the employers, more especially in support of their demand for a free Sunday, and of their proposal to refer their dispute to arbitration. Workmen, if they are wise, will always strive so to conduct their agitations for the amelioration of their condition as to command the support of the friends of virtue and of freedom. Many serious controversies will have to be passed through before the relations of capital and labour are adjusted in accordance with modern ideas of fair play and of the just rights of the working man; and at the present moment we in the North of England, who have had our share of these troubles and of the gains resulting from them, are face to face with what may prove to be a serious industrial crisis in Durham, as the result of the Silksworth dispute. There is need for caution as well as for mutual fidelity and firmness; and on the whole we think we are entitled to say of the miners that they have shown due appreciation of the advice to beware of entrance into a quarrel. If at last they should be committed to the battle they have long and honourably sought to avoid they will, we have little doubt, so bear themselves that the opposers will be taught to beware of them.

LONDON NOTES.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE AND EXTRACTS, &c.]
LONDON, Monday.

It is definitely understood that the division on Mr Morley's motion will be taken at to-night's sitting. Mr Smith has given notice of his intention to move the suspension of the Standing Order, so that it will be possible, if it is thought desirable, to prolong the debate till past midnight.

Mr Parnell has not been communicated with in respect of the arrangement for to-night's debate, and as the subject is Ireland, and as Mr Parnell still holds himself to be the leader of the Irish Parliamentary party, he is expected to take some steps not calculated to be agreeable.

Mr Smith's motion to suspend the twelve o'clock rule will give him and his friends an opportunity of coming to the front if they are disposed to be fractious.

The Wesleyan Missionary Committee have decided to establish a mission in Mashonaland. This is the result of a very urgent appeal from the Rev. Owen Watkins, whom Manchester Methodism introduced into the ministry a quarter of a century ago, and who since then has won deserved fame in South Africa as a missionary pioneer.

Mr Balfour does not intend to return to Ireland till the session is over, a remission of duty for which he is deeply thankful. He says he "can stand anything Irish but the Irish Channel." He suffers grievously even in ordinarily fine weather, and it has come to pass that in recent vis

THE WHITECHAPEL MURDER.

SUPPOSED CAPTURE OF THE "RIPPER."

A PLAUSIBLE STORY.

Despite the utmost vigilance on the part of the police authorities, they have discovered but little to throw any definite light upon the authorship of the latest Whitechapel tragedy. On Saturday they effected an arrest which at one time seemed to be of a most important character, but the man has since been released on his movements in a manner that rendered it difficult to connect him with the crime. The person in question is Thomas Saddler, a fireman on board a ship at St. Katherine's Docks, and he attracted the attention of Sergeant Edwards on Friday morning by reason of his blood-stained clothes. He explained that he had been ill-treated by three men, and as his general appearance bore out the statement the officer let him go on his way. Some time afterwards the news spread about that another murder had been committed, and the sergeant at once had his suspicions about the man he had seen only a short time before. It was decided to arrest him, and at noon on Saturday Detective Gill found Sadler in the Prince of Wales Inn, Upper East Smithfield. He denied his innocence of the crime, although admitting that he had been with a woman named Ellen Callaran the previous night. At the official examination of the prisoner at the Police Station,

PRISONER WAS IDENTIFIED BY A WOMAN

who said she saw quarrelling with the murdered woman early in the evening of the murder. Another declared him to be the person who had previously cohabited with Coleman. The man Callaran, however, when confronted with him, was unable to say that he was the man whom he had been talking to Coleman a short time before she was murdered. The accused himself said he had known the deceased for some time. He met her on Wednesday, and after they had been about together during the day they went to what is known as a "double" lodging-house in Dorset-street, Spitalfields, where they passed the night. On Thursday he was about with her a good deal, and they undoubtedly had too much to drink, contrary principally of gin and cloves. She asked him for some money in order to buy a hat, and he, after telling her that he thought she might better buy her money in other clothing, gave her half a crown. She bought the hat, which came to about two shillings. The two in course of their wanderings about the district came late in the evening to Flower-and-Dean-street, where they had some argument, in the midst of which, as alleged by Sadler, a woman came up and

STRUCK HIM ON THE HEAD

with some instrument, which caused him to faint. On coming to consciousness of this he drew the attention of the police officers to his head, upon which was a wound, and from which blood had apparently run, and found on to his clothing. Some other people, he asserted, came up and added to his ill-treatment. When he recovered these people had gone, and only the woman Coleman remained. He charged her with having attempted to defend him, and charged her with being the cause of the trouble between them. They quarrelled, and he left her. This was between ten and eleven o'clock at night. He made his way to the docks, with the intention of going to his ship, but when he got there the gateman refused to admit him because of his intoxication. For some time he lingered about the dock gates, hoping the officials. In the midst of this the gate-keepers came along, and he

AT ONCE FELL FOUL OF THEM,

and in all probability would have been roughly handled by them but for the presence of a police sergeant and constable. His next move was towards the Victoria Home for Sailors, with the intention of seeking shelter for the night. In this he was also unsuccessful on account of his drunken behaviour, and after pouring out some more abuse upon the porter he went in the direction of Tower Hill, where he met the police officer who accosted him. This, in effect, is Sadler's account of his movements. Whilst giving it he appeared to have a particularly good recollection for a man who had undoubtedly been worse for liquor during the time that the chief incidents had been happening. Sadler has the appearance of having led a hard and rough life. Though only middle-aged, he is tremendous life. Though only middle-aged, he is tremendous as looking fifty or sixty, and he has quite an average amount of intelligence.

MOVEMENTS OF THE MURDERED WOMAN.

A woman named Ellen Callaran has come forward to state that she was in the company of the deceased as late as two o'clock on Friday morning last.—"Last night we were walking up Commercial-street, about half-past twelve, having come out of the White Hart, George-yard, when we met a man dressed in a sailor suit, with pea-jacket and sheepskin hat. He accosted me and offered me half-a-crown. I refused, not liking his looks. He caught hold of me, tore my pocket, and struck me in the face giving me a black eye. He made the same offer to Frances, and left her after advising her not to go with him. I saw them walk down Commercial-street, in the direction of Leman-street. The next thing I heard was this morning at five o'clock, when someone told me a woman had been murdered near Leman-street. I said at once, 'I believe that is Frances.' After that I went to the police and told them the reason I am telling you now. They took me to the mortuary and I identified her at once as Frances."

A fisherman has been found in Nottingham-place, Balmuil-green, who can state that he sold three of the cheque hat she was wearing when murdered for 1s 9½d, and a woman from White's-row can identify the hat which was tucked up in the bodice of the deceased's dress. The police, it may be said, do not favour the theory that the murderer is a woman, and ascribe the presence of bonnets or hats to the fact that the victim, being probably to sleep in lodging-houses, would be compelled to carry the whole of her apparel with her. It is, however, not denied that the deed may have been committed by a man in woman's clothes. According to one man who resides in the locality the deceased was seen in company with a well-dressed woman drinking in a public-house near Mr Gardenstat about half-past twelve at night. The deceased is alleged to have said to her companion, "Make haste, because I have to meet someone at the arch at the half-hour." "What arch?" asked the other woman, to which the deceased replied, "Why, the shedway arch, school end." The man states that he knew the murdered woman as "Dorsety Hannah," a declaration which is confirmed by other persons. The statements given above go to show that she kept the appointment, and in all probability was with her murderer.

A SECOND ARREST.

The police made another arrest of a suspicious person at London Bridge Station at two o'clock on Sunday, and he was at once taken to Leman-street Police Station also. The police attach no importance to this arrest, but he is still detained.

WHAT ABOUT THE BLOODHOUNDS?

Some people are asking why were not bloodhounds put upon the scent of the murderer? The experiments formerly tried with these animals have, as was said at the time, a complete success, and are coming creditably out of every test applied to the usual conditions known to be necessary for successful scent. Sir Charles Warren was himself tracked and discovered by the hounds a few minutes after he had started, and upon a bicyclist who had merely pressed his foot upon the wheel of his bicycle was pursued and captured by the dogs. Unfortunately, however, the bloodhounds showed a distaste for London, and ran away to their former homes in the country. They are not considered worth while to have them sent back to town, the result being that the efficacy of this method of tracking a murderer was not put to a practical test.

INQUEST ON THE VICTIM.

Mr Wynn Baxter, Coroner for East London, held an inquest on Saturday afternoon on the body of the Working Lad's Institute. The summons to the jury described the deceased as "A woman unknown." Several jurymen did not attend personally to serve on the jury, but sent substitutes. Mr Thompson gave evidence of the finding of the body. The first thing he saw was something lying on the roadway about midway through. He went up to it and turned his lamp on, and he saw that it was a woman. He noticed some blood, and saw her open and shut one eye. He then blew his whistle three times, and two men came up in about three minutes. He had seen footsteps when going up Chambers-street. They were going in the direction of Mansell-street, and the sounds were heavy ones. He was then walking fast, but he saw no one. He was then coming from the arch. Nobody was going in the opposite direction. He could not say if the opposite footsteps he heard had come from the direction of Mr. Higham, one of the constables who stated that he went for Dr. Orley, who was in bed, but came shortly afterwards. Witness afterwards searched the vicinity, but saw no person who was likely to have committed the deed. —Another constable, who was called to see the woman, said the spot was very lonely after one o'clock in the morning. Had a cry for help been raised he must have heard it, but everything was very quiet till he heard a whistle.—A juror said it was important to know how long the doctor was in reaching the scene, as the woman was alive when discovered.—Witness said the doctor attended in about ten minutes.—The enquiry was adjourned till to-morrow, when medical evidence will be taken.

THE SILKSWORTH STRUGGLE.

THE EXPECTED EVICTIONS.

STATEMENT OF THE DISPUTE.

Now that the Council of the Durham Miners' Association has decided by a large voting majority that the lamentable struggle at Silksworth between labour and capital has to go on, and the men to remain idle, it may be as well, in view of to-day's contemplated evictions, to give a brief *resume* of the quarrel from its commencement. The source of the whole trouble is the deputy-overman question. Prior to 1884 the deputies were not in the Durham Miners' Association. The Silksworth miners did not attempt to take coercive measures against them. They very sensibly adopted an attitude of neutrality towards those men. Such action preserved those good relationships which should exist between masters and workmen—and which it is hoped will yet be established at Silksworth—and of course met with the hearty approval of the managers. But peace was not long to reign over the Silksworth Eden, wherein dwelt in harmony union and non-union men. Sixty out of a staff of seventy deputies committed the offence of joining the Miners' Association, and such event was the commencement of a state of things, which has gone on from bad to worse, until on November 22nd the Silksworth men came out on strike. The workmen allege that the manager violated an agreement come to in August, 1886, between the Coalowners' Association on the one hand, and the Durham Miners' Association on the other, such agreement being, in brief, that the deputies at Silksworth should be left to their own free choice to join the Durham Miners' Association or not, without undue influence being brought to bear against them from either the workmen or the owners' side. Well, the strike came. Before the first week had elapsed the whole of the non-union deputies had joined the Association. So far as the miners were concerned all cause for the continuance of the strike was at an end. They offered themselves for work, but were refused. What had been a strike was thus converted into a lock-out, and such it has continued to be. Then came the memorable letter from the Marquis of Londonderry, in which he referred to an agreement or understanding between the Federation Board and the Coalowners' Association, and threw the onus of the continuation of the struggle on the shoulders of the Silksworth men. More than a passing reference need not be made to the correspondence which the letter of the Marquis provoked. It was at this stage that the *North-Eastern Daily Gazette*, after giving a full statement of the matters which led to the crisis, suggested that the Silksworth men should approach the Marquis by a deputation, and lay their case fully and fairly before him. Such suggestion was made in the interests of peace, and believing that, if such a statement to the Marquis, as master, would step in between the two men and end the local Owners' Association, and put an end to the inglorious struggle. The advice was accepted, and a deputation representing all parties in the struggle journeyed to Belfast, and there had an interview with the titled Governor of Silksworth. The Marquis received his workmen very cordially, and expressed a desire to be on terms of friendship and good-will. Mr W. Mould, acting as spokesman for the miners, explained the quarrel from its inception until his present time. His lordship replied that he did not desire that the men should be compelled to leave the Miners' Association, but they should have freedom of action, and that the special fund would be abolished, and that none of his officials would be allowed to induce any man in any way whatever. His lordship was then asked if he would use his influence with the Owners' Urgency Committee to ask them to revert to the position which existed on November 26th last, for the men to pay their arrears to the Durham Miners' Association, now due, and then the pit to resume work. His lordship replied that he would use his influence to make the Urgency Committee revert to the position of affairs as they existed on the day of the strike, November 22nd, but he would not agree to the date, November 26th, as he would then be compelling deputies who had retired from the Miners' Association of their free will to rejoin it. He would also be glad to recommend to the Owners' Association that the pit resume work under the mutual agreement of the two associations, and that any grievance which might exist would be enquired into. The Coalowners' Association argued that these conditions were substantially the same as those proposed by them some months ago, and they failed to see that further time was necessary for consideration. Eventually the evictions were delayed until last Wednesday, and afterwards until after Saturday's council meeting. When the deputation laid the matter before a full meeting of the Silksworth men, it was then decided that, as the Silksworth case was in the hands of the country, they could not accept the suggestion of the Marquis of Londonderry. The Durham Deputies' Association" was also consulted, and they resolved not to interfere, but to allow the matter to be fought out by the two larger associations. As we have already stated, Saturday's council meeting decided by 229 votes to 138 that the pit should remain idle, and that the struggle should go on, meanwhile a special levy to be imposed upon each man and boy in the county towards the support of the locked-out men.

ALLEGED SLANDER BY A VICAR.

At Cumberland Assizes on Friday, before Mr Justice Day, a widow named Agnes Brown, Haile, brought an action against the Rev. A. H. Cooper, vicar of Haile, for damages for slander.—The alleged slander consisted of a statement repeatedly made by Mr Cooper to the managers of the parish school that the plaintiff, who was a schoolmistress, had had a miscarriage. The allegation had also been made to Mrs Price, of Rowlky Skeugh, who was then schoolmaster of the parish of Haile, but it was Price who had suggested it.—Mrs Brown denied the allegation, and no attempt was made to prove it.—After a protracted hearing, his lordship held that defendant was justified in consulting with his brother managers as to the propriety of continuing the plaintiff in their employment. The statements complained of, though untrue, were, if spoken *bona fide*, privileged.—The jury on this understanding returned a verdict for defendant.

A FOX IN A KITCHEN CHIMNEY.

The Duke of Rutland's Hounds, after meeting at Sir Thomas Whichcote's seat, Aswarby Park, near Sleaford, on Friday, found a fox in Burton Gorse, which ran to Silk Willoughby. At the back of some cottages in the village the hounds were at fault, and whilst Gillard, the huntsman, was casting around he was informed that Reynard had entered a labourer's house. Mr T. T. Houghton and another gentleman at once disappointed, and after closing the door in question saw the fox through the window looking about for a suitable hiding-place. On being detected Reynard bolted up the chimney. One person entered the house, and another mounted the roof, and with the aid of a pole compelled the fox to move. On emerging he began to prance about the room, and eventually ran up the chimney again. At last he was dislodged and captured, and taken into an adjoining field some distance away from the hounds. On being liberated he feigned death, until left alone, and then seeing a chance of escape started off towards Swarby Gorse, a black mass of a red fox. Hounds were immediately put on his track, and after a short spin he was killed in the open. After this incident the hounds had one of the most remarkable runs of the present season. An outlying fox, found near to Aswarby Park, ran right into Lord Willoughby's domains at Grimsthorpe, a distance of some 15 miles as the crow flies. All trace of the fox was lost near to a well, into which one hound fell, and was with difficulty rescued. Reynard, it is supposed, being hard pressed, took refuge in the well and was drowned.

THE SEAMEN'S AGITATION.

A SERIOUS OUTLOOK.

Matters are coming to a crisis in the shipping trade, and each side appears determined to persevere in the conflict, which has already taken place at Cardiff and to a less serious degree at other ports. The Shipowners' Federation has issued an important manifesto, which requires all its members, on and after the 23rd inst., to engage only such seamen and firemen as will pledge themselves to fulfil their contracts according to the Merchant Shipping Act, irrespective of whether they be union or non-union men; further, that members of the federation shall reserve their legal privilege of shipping their crews either at the shipping offices or on board ship, as is most convenient.—At a working men's demonstration at Cardiff on Saturday, Mr T. Mann said if the Shipping Federation were not prepared to stop their coercion not only the local trades unions but the general body of trades unions throughout the country would come out on strike.

AFFRAY BETWEEN ENGLISH AND FOREIGN SEAMEN.

A serious stabbing affray occurred early yesterday morning. Four Union men were proceeding to the Union Home, when they met several foreigners and a quarrel ensued. Knives were drawn by some of the foreigners, and one of them attempted to cut his opponent's throat. The latter, in raising his arm to protect himself, received a terrible gash, and another Union man was also severely injured. Upon the matter being reported at the men's headquarters, Messrs Mann, Wilson, and Orbell instituted an investigation with the result that a Russian named Johannesier was arrested while in bed at a common lodging-house, and was charged with unlawfully wounding Harry Lemon. A blood-stained sheath-knife was found in the prisoner's bed.

THE LOVERS' FESTIVAL.—Grand display of choice Valentines, new goods at the lowest prices, at Smith's, 20, Wilson-street, Middlesbrough.—ADVT.

The Editor of the *Medical Annual*, after a careful examination of CADBURY'S Cocoa, pronounces it to be both a food and a beverage of the highest quality. —ADVT.

MARBLE CLOCKS.—Another large consignment just arrived at Collingwood and Son's. See window for the cheapest homes in the town.—ADVT.

DARLINGTON Fent Store Company's system of business enables them to supply goods at 25 per cent. below any other house in the North. Flushes, Velvets, Trimmings, and Dress Silks at half-price. Tweeds at 1s per yard upwards. This is guaranteed; in proof write to see patterns.—ADVT.

THE DISCOVERY OF NATURAL GAS AT HAVERTON HILL.

There is not as yet much fresh to report concerning the discovery of natural gas at Messrs Watson, Scrafton, and Co.'s salt boring at Sweet Hill, Haverton Hill. The sides of the boring, being of soft strata, have caved in considerably, owing to the action of the water and of the boring rods, and in consequence the boring has been taken but little deeper. However, small quantities of gas are still detected, and on Saturday some of the mud dredged up from the bottom of the hole by the borer ignited when a light was put to it, flashing for a few seconds with a blue flame. Some of the stuff dredged from the lowest bed reached has a distinct odour of gas about it, something like an old gas pipe. At present the firm is not quite decided whether to push this boring further in search of the gas, or whether to bore another hole near by it. The caving-in of the present hole, and the presence of so much water in it, are felt to be great obstacles to the work, and it is most likely that another bore-hole will be sunk, quite close to the present one. This will be tubed down past the water-giving strata, which, as a rule, do not extend beyond 80 feet down, so that the hole may be kept quite dry, and if gas is reached it may be at once available. There are no discoveries as yet of any importance at any of the other borings.

A HALF-DROWNED ENTHUSIAST'S MANIA.

An illustration of the extraordinary hold which the football mania has upon some people was furnished by an incident which occurred at Stockton on Saturday night. A mill-furnaceman named Martin Casey, who hails from Middlesbrough, in a state of intoxication stumbled into the Tees over the staith near Kelly's Ferry about 10.30 p.m. on Saturday. He was seen struggling in the water by two men named James Kelly and Robt. Mitchell, who were able to clutch him with a boat-hook as he was being carried down the stream. He was apparently drowned when dragged ashore, but P.C. Caruthers and another ambulance man set to work to restore animation, and after great exertion for nearly half-an-hour they got the man to breathe. He was then conveyed to the police station and placed in a warm room, where stimulants were administered, and about midnight Casey showed signs of returning consciousness. Opening his eyes, he stuttered out in maudlin tones, "Good old Stockton" and then relapsed into insensibility; but five minutes afterwards he aroused himself again to exclaim, "Good old Chatt!" It is evident that the man had visited the town for the purpose of witnessing the football match, and his brain was so full of the craze that in spite of his pitiable condition nothing else could be got from him. He was taken care of in the Workhouse Infirmary, and this morning he has been removed to Middlesbrough, as the effects of his immersion have told seriously upon his health.

EXCITING SCENE IN A MENAGERIE.

At Wombwell and Baille's menagerie, at Keighley, on Saturday night, an exciting encounter occurred in the presence of 5,000 spectators. Louisearn, the female trainer, was performing in a den containing a lioness and a tiger, with the large Silesian boarhound which drove the escaped lion back into the cage at Birmingham eighteen months ago, when the tiger sprang on the hound and pinned him down. Louisearn tackled the tiger but the lioness attacked her. Orenzo, the male tamer, sprang into the den at a critical moment, seized the tiger by the throat, and enabled Louisearn, whose nerve had forsaken her, to escape. Orenzo then subdued both the beasts.

A DURHAM MINER KILLED IN AMERICA.

A correspondent, writing from Scranton (Pa.), America, says—William Worrall, who left Station Town, County Durham, on the 17th May, 1887, and emigrated to America, met with a sad accident on the 3rd inst. He was working at a mine known as the Storrs Shaft, in the heart of the Lackawanna Valley. The working had been stopped for six weeks for repairs, and a little water had gathered in his place. He had just made his first start, and had drilled a hole, which he was going to fire. He went into the next place till it should explode, and a piece of rock fell on the water. He thought that it was the spuib that missed fire, and went back to insert another spuib, when the shot went off, and caught him in the bowels, fearfully lacerating him. He lived about two hours, and told how it happened. Deceased being a member of the Foresters' Lodge, No. 3,004 of St. George, and the Red Men, there was a large attendance at his funeral, which took place on the 5th inst. He leaves a wife and four little children. He was a native of Wales, where he has several brothers.

FATHER YATES ON "DARKEST ENGLAND."

Continuing his discourses on "Darkest England," Father Yates, S.J., speaking last night to the congregation at St. Francis Xavier's, said there were three circles into which that condition of society best described as "Darkest England" might be divided—viz., the homeless and honest poor, those who live by vice, and those who live by crime. The darkest part of the dark continent of Africa could show no lower depth of degradation than those that existed in England, and especially the dwellers in the slums of our cities. There was no vice, no sin that was not committed, no commandment of God that was not broken. The evil permeated and poisoned the veins of our social life. The preacher having spoken of the banking immorality of the large cities and towns, and the subtle influences that are at work to lure innocent females to ruin, referred to the conditions of labour imposed upon men and women in some of the factories in this country. As instances, he quoted the following:—A chain was made by a man whose labour was valued at 3d, the material was valued at 2d, and that chain was sold at 1s 6d. Mantles were made in certain districts of London at a cost of 7d or 8d each; half of that was taken by the middleman, or "sweater," and these mantles were sold at from 16s to 42s each. Other articles, the cost of making which was 7d, were sold at 5s or 6s. A man employed in a cutlery establishment made knives, 14 to the dozen and 14 dozen to the gross, and he got only 1s for every gross he made. Another should be remembered that there were deductions made from these prices by cunning, merciless employers. Then, again, women were compelled to do work which amounted to cruelty, and which was fit only for animals. Under such circumstances how could these people be Christians? Unless these classes were in better condition than they were, and continue to be irreligious, they would be immoral, and they would steal and rob, and the malaria, moral and physical, which afflicted the community would still continue with us.

A MIDDLESBROUGH MINISTER ON THE HOMES OF THE POOR.

Continuing his series of monthly lectures on social topics, the Rev. J. P. James, pastor of Queen's-terrace Congregational Church, Middlesbrough, last night preached on the best means of ameliorating the conditions under which the poor live. He said that amongst the social evils of to-day were rack-renting, overcrowding, drunkenness, industry, and robberies of all kinds. The poor living in such a place as Robinson's-yard could hardly help, he said, taking to drink, and in a street off Cannon-street he had found six houses with a whole family living in everyone of the four rooms to each. The rev. gentleman here quoted at length from the report on "An Unsanitary District: A Blot on Middlesbrough," which recently appeared in the *North-Eastern Daily Gazette*, as showing how hard it must be for poor people to live decently in the surroundings in which they found themselves placed, and how easily the high death rate amongst the children of the poor was accounted for. There should be, he continued, the nationalisation of a large measure of health and comfort. The principle was already applied in the Elementary Education Act and Poor Law, and it only needed that the same principle should be applied to suit the various phases of poverty. If, instead of spending £150,000 on the Middlesbrough Municipal Buildings, the Council had spent, say, half of that sum, and the other half in providing healthy dwellings for the labour which would have been the wisest course, or proved the greater blessing to the town? He could, he thought, leave his hearers to judge. The time had come when the value of the land in connection with our large towns should be brought up, not at speculative prices, but the owners should be compelled by Government to sell to the Corporation at a fair, usable price, and then proper arrangement should be made for securing the conditions of health. The unearned increment of land at Middlesbrough alone, which had now often been the property of certain persons, perhaps righteous, speculators, would have secured these conditions over and over again. Why should any one man or any family thus be able to suck the blood of society and fatten on the frugality and hard toil and earnings of those whose labours alone had made the land valuable? It was the people who created the value of land, and they ought to have a fair share and benefit of it. The great need was for better dwellings for the poor at fair rents. Our Town Council, if they could not prevent high rents could at least pull down existing dirty, rubbishy buildings, and sell the land to builders, and see that proper dwellings were put upon it. Under the Artisans' Dwellings Act the Town Council could acquire land and sell it cheaply on condition that the rooms of the houses built thereon were of a certain size, and that specified appliances for cleanliness provided. It might be cooky, but was not human life valuable? Provision should also be made for large common rooms for purposes of recreation and instruction, libraries, public playgrounds, etc. The duty of Town Councillors, he said in conclusion, was not to save the pockets of the rich, but to promote the welfare of the people.

North Country News.

S. Leach and Son, Picture Frame Makers, Carvers, and Gilders, Zetland-rd., M'bro'.—ADVT.

William Reid will Show To-day in his Cannon-street Windows Extraordinary Lines in Black Cashmere and French Merinos.—ADVT.

GREAT SALE AT MIDDLESBROUGH.—Don't forget the great Drapery Sale at Pottage's To-day. —ADVT.

MAX O'RELL, Borough Hall, Stockton, Friday, Feb. 20, Lecture, "John Bull and Jacques Bonhomme," 8 p.m.—ADVT.

Crossley Brothers' New Horizontal Otto Engine (without slides) can be seen working any day at Alf. Field's Printing Works, behind Cleveland-terrace, Middlesbrough.—ADVT.

To-day at Hartlepool George Martin, of Guisborough, labourer, was fined 5s and 7s costs, or 14 days' for assaulting on Saturday night P.C. Sanderson.

ORDINATION OF A CATHOLIC PRIEST AT MIDDLESBROUGH.—Bishop Lacy, at the principal morning service at St. Mary's Cathedral yesterday, ordained the Rev. Prosper Coppin for the diocese of Middlesbrough.

Owing to a large arrival of Boys' Odd Garments (Knickers and Jackets suitable for school wear) our Sale will be Continued 10 Days Longer. All Goods Reduced except Cords and Moles. Levy's, Bridge-street, Middlesbrough.—ADVT.

FALL FROM A HORSE AT STOCKTON.—On Saturday night Francis Kay, who lives in Mosesstreet, Stockton, was admitted to Stockton Hospital, suffering from a fracture of the thigh produced by falling from a horse.

NEWPORT-ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Lecture to-night by the Rev. W. Rogerson, of Warkworth, on "William the Silent." Chair to be taken by Mayor of Middlesbrough, at 8 o'clock. Coffee Supper after Lecture. Tickets, Lecture and Supper, 1s. Lecture only, 6d.—ADVT.

PRESENTATION TO A WEST RIDING OFFICER. —Mr Wm. Hall, Deputy Chief Constable of the West Riding, who is retiring after 34 years in the police force, was on Saturday the recipient of handsome testimonials at his residence, Wakefield, subscribed by the whole of the superintendents in the West Riding.

THEFT AT WEST HARTLEPOOL.—This afternoon Harry Kenny, ironworker, Hill-street, was fined at West Hartlepool 20s, or fourteen days, for stealing nine pigeons, value 20s, belonging to Jas. Peters. He was also fined 20s, or a month's hard labour, for stealing coke, value 1s 6d, the property of the Seaton Carew Iron Company. The coke was found on his premises by P.C. Atkinson.

SHOP ROBBERY AT HARTLEPOOL.—To-day Robert Stocker (45), labourer, of Park-street, West Hartlepool, was sentenced by the Hartlepool Bench to three months' hard labour for stealing two shirts, value 3s, from the second-hand shop of Ellen Halfpenny, of 44, High-street, on the 13th inst. After committing the theft prisoner made off, but was subsequently apprehended by P.C. Jackson. He had been previously convicted.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A FATHER AT MIDDLESBROUGH.—To-day at the Middlesbrough Police Court a powerfully-built man named Walter Skilbeck was remanded until Friday on a charge of cutting and wounding his two sons in stealing polonies from Mr Nettleton's shop in Corporation-road. The boys were seen to take the polonies, and on Miss Nettleton going out to them prisoner came up and used some abusive language. He had been convicted at Stockton of a like offence.

THE TEES SALMON FISHERY BOARD.—A special meeting of the above Board was held this morning at the Police Court, Darlington, the Hon. Jas. Lowther, M.P., presiding.—A deputation appeared before the Board from the Darlington Silver Trout Anglers, protesting against the proposed increase in trout licenses. The signatures represented nearly 100 anglers directly, and indirectly a host of the trout anglers, who object to pay more than 1s for such sport as they were able to get from the Tees. In their opinion the river required to be improved by every possible means, and they suggested that 100,000 trout fry be obtained, placed in lines and nesting be prohibited, the close time extended to March, and that a 5s license be given for allowing bull trout to be taken. They considered that if the proposed increase took effect not one half of the licenses would be taken out as before. Various politicians from different parts of the county spoke, and a decrease in licenses were also read, including one signed by 200 anglers, one from the Stockton Angling Association, and another from the meeting of the Northern Anglers, held in Stockton.—Mr G. Webster then moved the resolution standing in his name, that the existing scale of duty on licenses to fish for salmon be varied, and that in future the duty be for each and every rod and line for the season 2s 6d.—Mr T. M. Barron moved as an amendment that in the opinion of the Board it was inexpedient to increase the charges for fishing. —After considerable discussion the question was put to the meeting, but ten gentlemen voted for the amendment, and ten for the motion.—The Chairman then stated that he would vote in such a manner as would enable the Board to still entertain the questions before the meeting. He, therefore, voted against the amendment.—On Mr Webster adopting the motion of Mr Pennyman that the duty for trout fishing be 2s per season, nine voted for and ten against.

Cowley's Presentation Clocks, Bronzes Silver and Silver plate, Cutlery Canteens, all of the Newest Designs. 124, Grange-road, Middlesbrough.—ADVT.

This Day's Commercial News.

Bank rate (discount)	3 p.c.
Market rate of disct., 60 days' drafts	2½ to 2¾ p.c.
Do. do. 3 months	2¾ to 2¾ p.c.
Do. do. 4 months	2¾ to 2¾ p.c.
Do. do. 6 months	2¾ to 2¾ p.c.
Loans to bill-brokers, day to day	2 p.c.
Rate for fortnight, loans to stock-brokers	2½ to 2¾ p.c.
Deposit allowance (banks)	1¼ p.c.
Do. do. (discount houses)	½ to 1½ p.c.

Applications are invited for shares in the Rodez Collieries, limited. The capital is £195,000 in 7,500 7% per cent. cumulative preference shares of £10 each, and 12,000 ordinary shares of the same value. It is proposed to acquire and work certain goldfields, with the partially developed collieries thereon, near Rodez, the chief town of the Department of L'Aveyron. Rodez is centrally situated in a populous and thriving district about 140 miles from the harbour of Cette, about 240 miles from Marseilles, about 217 miles from Bordeaux, about 280 miles from Lyons, and at distances from about 180 to 260 miles from Nimes, Montpellier, Toulouse, and Montauban, and other large towns. The vendor takes £25,000 of the preference and £40,000 of the ordinary shares in part payment of the purchase money. £15,850 of the preference shares have been already applied for and allotted to the directors and their friends. The residue are now offered for public subscription at par.

The Securities Insurance Company, Limited, has been announced, with a capital of £1,000,000, in 99,000 shares of £10 each, and 500 founders' shares of £1 each. The objects of the undertaking are to apply the system of insurance, which has proved so beneficial and lucrative in the case of life, fire, guarantee, and other risks, to the insurance or guarantee of mortgages, bank deposits, mercantile and commercial trade debts, contracts, and liabilities; to insure against the risk of loss of the principal and interest of the bonds, debentures, preference stocks, and other securities of Governments and other public authorities, and of approved corporate bodies and public companies in the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, and elsewhere; to insure holders of shares in banks and other limited liability companies against the unpaid or reserved liability; and, generally, the application of the principle of insurance to securities wherever it can be applied. It is also intended to make advances on approved stocks, shares, bonds, and debentures, within a margin of their value, or conjointly with collateral security; to insure holders of intending purchases of securities at a premium against loss arising from redemption at par, whether by drawings or at a fixed date; and to carry out the other objects set forth in the memorandum of association of the company. The subscription list opens with 30,000 ordinary shares out of the 60,000 now offered for subscription, but has been guaranteed. The ordinary shares will be entitled to a dividend of 7 per cent. per annum out of the net profits of each year before any dividend is paid on the founders' shares. The balance of profit over and above the dividend of 7 per cent. after making provision for a reserve fund, and subject to the provisions of the memorandum of association, will be divided in equal proportions as one moiety between the holders of the ordinary shares, and as the other moiety between the holders of the founders' shares.

The lists of applications for shares in Woodhouse and Rawson United Limited will close on the 18th inst. The share capital consists of ordinary shares £300,000; preference shares £200,000. Of the above, the first issue, namely, £200,000 ordinary shares and £100,000 preference shares, has been allotted. The directors now receive applications for the balance, viz., 20,000 ordinary shares of £5 each, entitled to a preference as to dividend at 7 per cent. cumulative, and 10,000 preference shares of £5 each, entitled to a preference as to dividend at 7 per cent. cumulative. Applications for any or all of the above, and together with a further 10 per cent. on application and allotment, may be made at the London, Manchester, and Liverpool Joint Stock Bank, Limited, Princes-street, London, E.C., or at an earlier date if the list be sooner closed, with the consent of two-thirds of the holders of the stock. It is explained that the object of the issue are to provide capital for the consolidation of the businesses of the Company, and to carry out various additional proposals, including a contract for the lighting of a portion of the city of Leeds, and further to enable the directors to pay off the balance of the £75,000 deposited with the Company, which they can now do on advantageous terms.

The following new business is offered to the public:—The Ashley Patent (Machine-made) Bottle Company (Limited), £75,000 in 15,000 6 per cent. mortgage debentures of £20, £50, and £100 each. Applications to be sent to day, February 16th. Offices: Cassleford. Ordnance Wharfage, Limited.—Share capital £50,000 in 5,000 preference shares of £10 each, and 2,500 ordinary shares of £10 each. 350 preference shares now offered. Lists close on Wednesday, February 18th. Offices, 5, Bolton Lane, Bowring Green, Liverpool. Oxford Corporation Redeemable Stock. Issue of £250,000 3 per cent. stock. Tenders to be sent in to-day, Monday, February 16th. Glasgow (Virginia) Town Lands (Limited); capital £310,000 in 62,000 shares of £5, 61,200 being ordinary and 800 founders' shares. Lists open to-day, Feb. 16, and close Tuesday, Feb. 17th. Offices, 12a, Coleman-street, London, E.C.

Woodhouse and Rawson United (Limited). Share capital £300,000 in 3,000 shares of £100 each. Preference. Present issue, 20,000 Ordinary shares of £5 each. Lists close on Wednesday next. Offices: 38, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

French Mines (Limited). Capital £2,0,000 in 200,000 shares of £1 each. Offer of 50,000 shares. Lists open to-day for London, Tuesday for the country, and Friday for Paris. Offices: Nelson Yard, Nelson House, Old Broad street, London, E.C.

The Securities' Insurance Company (Limited): Capital £1,000,000, in 99,000 shares of £10 each, and 500 founders' shares of £1. First issue, £500,000 in 50,000 ordinary shares (already allotted), and 50,000 ordinary. Lists open to-day, and close on or before Thursday. Offices, 20, Cornhill-street, London, E.C.

Noble's Cleansing Machines Company (Limited): Share capital, £21,000, in 21,000 shares, 14,550 ordinary and 6,450 deferred, and 1,000 founders' shares. First issue, 14,550 ordinary and 200 founders' shares. Lists open to-day, Feb. 16th; close Feb. 21st. Offices (temporary): 23, John Dalton street, Manchester.

The Rodez Collieries (Limited).—Share capital £195,000, in 7,500 seven per cent. cumulative preference shares of £10 each, and 12,000 ordinary shares of £10 each. Lists open to-morrow and close on or before Thursday.

GLASGOW IRON.

Steady. Small business done at 46/5¾, 46/5, and 46/6¼ cash, 46/7 one month; closing buyers 46/5¾ cash, 46/6¼ one month; sellers ¼ more. Middlesbrough iron at 46/3 cash, 46/4½ one month; closing buyers 51/6 cash, 51/8 one month; sellers 1d more. Hematite done at 50/4¾ cash; closing buyers 50/4¾ cash, 50/5 one month; sellers 1s6d more.

BARROW IRON.

Hematites are again quiet this morning, and the business doing is slow. Prices are easier at 50/5 per ton for warrants cash, but makers are still quoting 53/6 for Bessemer. The mixed numbers are 51/6 cash. No further restrictions in output are contemplated. Steel makers not so busy as lately. Shipbuilders and engineers busy. Coke is quiet.

NEWCASTLE FREIGHT.

Freight market shows more demand for coasting steams 8, but at low prices. Mediterranean rates weak and without offerings. Charters reported:—Steamers—Tyne to Fairwater, 4/5; Bilbao, 4/3; Lubeck, 5/; steam buog, 4/6; Havre, 4/7; Lisbon, 6/6; Cardiff to Alexandria, 7/3; Middlesbrough to Indian ports, 15/-. Coal steady for seaboard ports; Mediterranean coal firmer, but especially cannie coals. South Durham salt strongest. Copper steadier. Iron unaltered.

MIDDLESBROUGH IRON SHIPMENTS.

Date.	Iron.	L & S.	Tons	Date.	Iron.	L & S.	Tons
Jan.	45,998	23,771	67,765	Feb.	9..1,790..	140..	1,930
					10..2,795..	600..	3,395
Feb.	2..4,150..	—..	4,150		11..2,300..	600..	2,900
	3..5,285..	186..	5,451		12..1,000..	750..	1,750
	4..1,030..3,015..		4,105		13..4,630..	400..	5,030
	5..1,000..3,377..		4,377		14..1,970..5,415..		7,385
	6..4,053..1,139..		5,172				
	7..4,050..1,840..		5,870				

LONDON PRODUCE.

Sugar: Pieces steady; dried goods and crystals unchanged; French goods slow; beet quiet; February buyers 13/7½, sellers 13/9½; March buyers 13/6, sellers 13/7½. Coffee steady; Mocha, 95s; Santos, 74s; Rio, 72s; Havels, and Haute Saone; Marsh's Oldhollow, Ou corn, Curlew, Morion, and Cocoa; Ashar's Baldons Barker's Peerdriver, Belsdike, Pappins, and Chiossian want a mile. Harmon's Godwit and Gallop, Queen went six furlongs.

On the Bishop side: Rush's Island and Pass Par Tout; Hanson's Trimdle Hill and Sidneys went two miles. Wardle's Maypole; Rider's Spring bank, Springtime, Orville and Carrick went a mile and three-quarters. Jackson's Ravensbourne, and Corbin Blue; J. Dawson's Wiseman, Pass, and Roberts' Bewitch Bathbed, Vain Girl, and Hazy string; Rea's Wizard, Fortune Teller, Pitman and Hermon; Jennison's Lord George, Star for Henry, and Lusignan went a mile and a quarter.

CHIPS.

A penny changes hands 125,000 times in the course of its life.

Australia has over a million square miles of fertile land, and could eventually support at least a hundred millions of inhabitants.

The body of a petrified man has, an American journal assures us, been found in Fresno, California. It has been sold for £2,500 for exhibition purposes.

When Mr Farjeon, the English novelist, was an Arabian editor he used often to go to "case," and take a "stick" from one of his men, while the released compositor enjoyed his pipe; and at it he went in his shirt-sleeves, holding his own with the best of his comps.

Deer parks have flourished in this country from a very early period. The Anglo-Saxon kings possessed them, and spent their lives in the alternate pursuit of the chase and in the art of war. Thirty-one deer parks, eight of them belonging to the Crown and the remainder to the nobility and the larger monastic establishments, are noticed in Domesday Book.

In London there is a man who follows the business of tattooing. The majority of his patients are men who have designs of a naval character pricked into their skin, but there are also a great many women who employ his art, if it may be termed such. With women the decoration is usually a bee, a butterfly, a spray of flowers, or a monogram. These ornaments are worn inside the wrist, so that they may be hidden by the glove, if necessary.

Her Majesty was herself an only child, but she has lived to see her children's children's children. At this time there number fifty living descendants, including sons and daughters, grandsons and great-granddaughters, great grandsons and great great-granddaughters, great grandsons-in-law, great daughters; besides whom she has four sons-in-law, four daughters-in-law, five grandsons-in-law, and one granddaughter-in-law. The Queen has lost one son and one daughter, five grandsons, one great-daughter, one great grandson, and one son-in-law. If these were living, her family circle would number seventy-four.

Dr. Barrowby was canvassing for the post of one of the physicians to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. With a view to obtaining the vote of a certain influential grocer, he called upon him, and found him bursting with importance as he strutted up and down his shop. With a mixture of insolent patronage and insulting familiarity he slowly approached the doctor, and said, "Well, my friend, what is your business?" Barrowby paused, locked him straight in the face, and said, "I want a pound of plums." Greatly confused, the grocer put up the plums, whereupon the doctor put them in his pocket and marched off without asking him for his vote.

The different important State documents are sealed with different varieties of wax, according to the office from which they emanate. For instance, the wax used for the Great Seal of England is whitish in colour, and is compounded of oils and bulsams, from a recipe kept in the Lord Chancellor's Office. The wax of the Great Seal and Privy Seal of Scotland, manufactured by an Edinburgh firm, is a compound of resin and beeswax, coloured with vermilion, which is a bright red sulphide of mercury. The Exchequer Seal is made of green wax, and is considerably softer than ordinary sealing-wax.

Mr Charles Bertram, the conjurer, fairly outrivalled himself in a private séance given before Dr. Walsh, the Archbishop of Dublin. Bertram presented a pack of cards to his Grace, requesting him to draw one. "The card you have drawn, your Grace," said B., "is the king of hearts." "No," replied the Archbishop, "it is the five of clubs." "Well," said Bertram, in an astonished tone, "it is the first time I ever failed in that trick. Would you look at the card again?" His Grace looked, and instead of the five of clubs he saw a portrait of himself. "I wasn't so much wrong after all," remarked Bertram, gaily, "for surely your Grace is the king of hearts in Ireland."

"Infant phenomena" in the style of the Siamese Twins have, according to a telegram received from Cannes, just made their appearance in a village in the neighbourhood of that town. The babies, who belong to the fair sex, are connected by a ligament which binds them back to back, but barring this eccentricity of nature they are described as being remarkably well formed, and apparently very healthy. Their mother is a Frenchwoman of twenty-five summers, whose family had been settled in the village for years. It is needless to say that the infants are being examined with considerable curiosity by the doctors in that part of the country, who are of opinion that the death of one of the twins would at once be attended with fatal results to the other, so that their lives may be regarded as hanging literally on a thread. This was the case with the Siamese Twins, and with one or two other phenomena of the same character.

Neither frost nor thew is supposed to affect the denizens of club-land, but only family people. A whist club not a thousand miles from Charing-cross nevertheless discovered the other day, writes Mr James Payn, that it possessed no such immunity. Imagine four tables "going" in a large room lit by electric light, in an atmosphere of silence, and with all the solemn circumstances that environ the sacred game, and suddenly, as though evoked by a miraculous rod, a cataract bursting from the wall! However, it swamped only one set, and the rest went on with that sublime inattention to the troubles of others peculiar to whist-players and hunting-men whose brothers have come to grief in a ditch. "Under this chandelier," said one gentleman, who had been holding excellent hands, "I think we are pretty safe, no matter what the thaw does;" and, as the words left his lips, about half a ton of water came down his back from the very source of light. "I am not going to leave my seat," he spluttered "with cards like this! Waiter, my umbrella!"

The officials employed at the Kotwali at Delhi had a strange and unwelcome visitor not long ago. A full-grown wild boar from the Bela plantation, on the west bank of the Jumna, took it into its head to visit the city, and to have a good time in the fine vegetable garden in the Delhi and London Bank compound. As boars have never been known to come so far in search of food, the malees were not watchful, and the boar had it all his own way. In fact, he found things so pleasant that he made up his mind to prolong his stay, and finding a secluded spot he made himself comfortable after his feed. He was, however, discovered early in the morning by the malees, and had to take to his heels. He rushed out by the main entrance to the bank and into the Chandni Chowk, making straight for the police station, where he was pulled up by a crowd. He seems to have completely lost his head on this spot, as he dived unhesitatingly into the Kotwali, and took refuge in one of the outhouses. The Kotwal and his subordinates had a lively half-hour of it, driving the boar about the yard; but they succeeded at last in despatching him with swords.

This is how a theatrical reform was worked in Chicago. The theatre was crowded. The curtain had just risen. Jewels flashed, gay plumes on wondrous headdresses fluttered in the heated air, costly fans waved slowly to and fro, and the fashionable audience turned its eyes and opera-glasses towards the stage and settled into the expectant hush that precedes the opening of the play. In a conspicuous location about half-way between the orchestra and the front seats of the parquet circle were three ladies, who were noticeable for the wide, flaring, umbrageous hats they wore. Directly behind them sat a nervous-looking man, who was making fruitless efforts to see the stage. The wide hats, with their wealth of tropical bird foliage, hid everything. In vain he wriggled, and squirmed, and craned his neck from side to side. The hats were too large, too close together, and too richly upholstered. Apparently unconscious that he was attracting universal attention, he persevered till sounds of ill-suppressed laughter were heard on all sides of him. At length, taking advantage of a lull in the performance on the stage, he leaned forward and addressed one of the ladies. "Madam," he said in a loud whisper, "I beg pardon, but it is utterly impossible for me to see through your hat, and the Lord made me too small to see over it. If you will kindly remove it, you will make a wretched man happy for a whole evening." The forty or fifty persons who were looking on saw the lady remove her head-covering at once, turn round, and smilingly beg his pardon. They saw the other two ladies take off their hats also, and the example became instantly contagious. Ten or a dozen other enormous hats came off within the next half minute, much to the relief of the sufferers directly behind them. The details of this pleasing little incident are given in full for the purpose of explaining to those who witnessed it that the whole affair was prearranged. The lady whom that man addressed was his wife, and the other two were his sisters.

THE SCOTCH RAILWAY AND BLAST-FURNACEMEN'S STRIKES.

GREAT SYMPATHETIC DEMONSTRATION AT MIDDLESBROUGH.

ANOTHER RAILWAY STRIKE THREATENED.

Under the auspices of the Middlesbrough Trades Council a great labour demonstration was organised yesterday afternoon with the object of affording moral and material support to the workers now engaged in the great industrial struggles in Scotland. A procession representing various branches of trade assembled at the Old Town Hall at two o'clock, and paraded the town, gathering a large concourse on the way, while, in the meantime, many thousands had gathered on the open space southward of the Municipal Buildings, where an open-air meeting was arranged to be held. Mr H. C. Derwent, the president of the Trades Council, presided upon the extemporised platform, supported by Mr H. Tait, of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants; Messrs Toyn and Hobbs, of the Cleveland Miners' Association; Mr Smith, Trades Council; Messrs Carlton and Baker, National Association of Blast-furnacemen; Mr A. Clark, of the General Railway Workers' Union; Messrs Mansell and Flynn, of the Newcastle Trades Council; and many others.

The CHAIRMAN explained the object of the meeting, and referred first to the Scotch railway strike. He had been glad to hear that they were going to support the Scotch railway-men when they had been defeated? He contended—although to the superficial observer it might appear so—that the Scotch railwaymen had not been defeated. (Hear, hear.) He felt that they had done a most important work, which would surely have the effect of materially benefiting their condition. It had taught them a lesson in organisation, showing what weak spots they had to mend. The masters had been shown that they could not continue to oppress the men as they had done in years past. As the blast-furnacemen's strike, that was a struggle that was unique in the annals of trades-union struggles. It had been said that this strike had been a God-send to the masters in enabling them to get rid of their surplus stocks. If that had been the case to some extent in the earlier part of the struggle, that was certainly not the case now; and the masters were making the most strenuous efforts to drive the men into submission. He hoped they would stand firm to their most reasonable and moderate demand, and that they would receive hearty and liberal support from this district. (Hear, hear.)—and they would certainly be so served. The blast-furnacemen of Scotland had been working under the most degrading conditions that could be imagined. He held that the working man had as much right to the Sabbath as the masters or any other men, but the Scotch blast-furnacemen had to work fourteen and sixteen hours on the Sunday without obtaining extra pay. ("Shame.") The struggle had been proceeding on most legitimate lines throughout, and although their pickets had been out, and had captured fourteen or fifteen men in one day—(hear, hear)—they had worked in a perfectly legitimate way. He ventured to predict that the time was not far distant when the proud masters in Scotland would be glad to meet the representatives of the men's Association. As to the threatened evictions, he might state that before the men could be turned out of their homes they would have to go before the Sheriff's Court, where lawyers would defend their case, so they could not be turned out yet; and if the worst came to the worst, friends had offered to find shelter for some of the men. The clergy, who had hitherto held aloof from them, were now coming over—as many as eight being on one of his platforms last week; and at Shotts a pastor had offered to shelter the whole of the men at the works there in his chapel, if the necessity arose. (Applause.)—The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr KEEL (Secretary of the Scotch branch of the A.S.R.S.) proposed the next resolution as follows:—

That we, the trades unionists of Middlesbrough and public assembled, heartily approve of the Scotch railway-servants' struggle, having to reduce their hours of labour, which have hitherto been unjust alike to the highest interests of the men, and a continual serious source of danger to the travelling public; and, seeing that they have to-day assembled in force, we heartily commend the action of the men, in the interests of the trade and commerce of the country, in refusing to peddle a complete and satisfactory settlement. We further pledge ourselves to support them, morally and financially—while we enter a strong protest against the most despicable and cowardly action of the masters in trying to screen themselves by going to Scotland to help the masters to defeat the men in their endeavour to obtain justice.

Mr J. MAHR seconded, and Mr TAIT supported, this resolution. Prior to the strike, it was stated, the Scotch railway-men had worked two hours per day longer than those of England, but as were the hours of the latter, and help was asked for the 700 or 800 railwaymen who were now for a time out of work there. The Scotch masters had learned a lesson by the strike which they would not forget, and they would find in the conference that was to take place on Wednesday, that if they did not grant reasonable concessions there would be another strike to face, because the associations of the men were not going to spend the £20,000 the strike had cost them without obtaining some definite advantages therefrom. The public, said Mr Tait, must not be surprised if they heard of the whole of the Scotch railwaymen coming out on strike again next Sunday if the masters did not show a disposition to meet them fairly. As to the men from England who had blacklegged in Scotland, they would get no rest until they got back to England again, for they had a most determined boycott to face. If the strike had cost the men's associations £25,000, it had cost the masters half a million—as much as the giving of the ten hours day for seven years would have cost them. (Applause.) The Scotch railway companies must rest assured, too, that the men would have that ten hours day before they rested from their agitation. (Hear, hear.)—The resolution was agreed to *nem. con.*, and votes of thanks were passed with cheering.

PROPOSED REDUCTION IN WAGES AT MIDDLESBROUGH.

The workmen of all grades employed at Messrs Cochrane, Grove, and Co.'s Ironworks, Middlesbrough, to the number of about 1,000, have received a fortnight's notice of a 5 per cent. reduction in their wages.

A CHILD STARVED TO DEATH.

At Huntingdon Assizes on Saturday a labourer named Cox and his wife were indicted for the manslaughter of their child, four years old, by starvation, not a particle of food being found in its stomach. There was an insurance on the child's life. The man was acquitted, and the woman sentenced to six months' hard labour.

STATE OF THE SKILLED LABOUR MARKET.

Mr John Burnett, the labour correspondent to the Board of Trade, in his usual memorandum prepared for the *Board of Trade Journal*, says:—The trade reports this month from 21 societies representing the principal skilled industries show, with a few exceptions, some falling off in the labour market as compared with last month's figures. This is, however, largely due to the numerous strikes that have taken place, there being 73 noted during the month, as against 60 in the month preceding. The engineering, shipbuilding, and other branches of the iron trade remain remarkably firm, and the chief society of the coal-trade branch shows in its report a considerable improvement upon the figures of the previous month, the proportion of unemployed having decreased from 2.7 to 1.9 per cent. This, upon a membership of close on 70,000 men, indicates a fairly healthy condition of trade. Summarising the returns, it appears that 21 societies sending in their reports to the Board of Trade have an aggregate membership of 239,030, of which 8,063 were unemployed, as against 7,253 in the month before, an increase of 810. The proportion this month is 3.37, whereas last month it was 3.05 per cent.

A SCOTCH OPINION OF THE IRISH SPLIT.

A member of Mr Gladstone's Midlothian Electoral Committee has just written to a Comdon Liberal a letter, in which he endeavours to paint Scotch opinion on the present Irish crisis. In the letter he says:—"It appears that both parties of Irishmen are of opinion that they can get a measure of Home Rule entirely to their satisfaction independent of either Liberal or Tory. They speak as if this country had got nothing to do with the matter. Well, if that is really the only way they expect Home Rule to be settled I would say there is an end of it; for, undoubtedly, there will be two parties at the making of it. It is seldom that the public has been treated to such a contemptible piece of vulgar rascality as the attempt of Mr Parnell to ride out of his debasement on a charge of faithlessness in the great Liberal leader. The transparent trick would never have been tolerated in the worst slum of Whitechapel. Whether the Irish are to have Home Rule or not will depend entirely on themselves, for if they can but behave reasonably and unitedly, and be willing to accept a measure satisfactory both to this country and to Ireland, I have no doubt Liberals will still support them; but if not, then they can go to the Tory party and try them."

DEATH OF GENERAL SHERMAN.

General Sherman, who has been suffering from pneumonia supervening upon erysipelas, died at New York on Saturday afternoon. The deceased, William Tecumseh Sherman, was born at Lancaster, Ohio, on February 8th, 1820, and had, therefore, just completed his seventy-first year. He received a military education, and after a short interval, spent as banker and lawyer, was appointed Superintendent of the Westpoint Military Academy. He greatly distinguished himself in the American Civil War, his first success being at the battle of Bull Run. In 1864 he made his first great expedition into the heart of the enemy's country, forcing his way straight through the State of Mississippi from Vicksburg to Meridian, the converging point of the great south-western railways, and returning safely to the former place after having destroyed all the railways and roads. Having organised an army of 100,000 men he commenced a campaign against the Confederate General Johnston on May 5 of the same year, and after many brilliant manœuvres and victorious battles finally received the capitulation of Atlanta. General Sherman then commenced his historic march to the sea, which he reached in December, and captured Savannah. He soon started northwards and defeated Generals Hardee and Johnston. Being joined by Schofield and Jerry, he again defeated General Johnston and took Raleigh, whereupon the Confederate General surrendered with 28,000 men, the war of secession being thus brought to a close.—The interment will take place at St. Louis.

"THE AIR WE BREATHE AND THE CLOTHES WE WEAR."

This was the subject of the second lecture given under the auspices of the Newcastle Health Society at Newcastle on Saturday night, the lecturer being Dr. Thomas Oliver, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Nothing, he said, was more important than a good supply of air in houses, and particularly in bed-rooms. He would plead for the children. They were usually put to bed at 6.30 p.m., and remained there till half-past seven or eight in the morning, 12 or 13 hours out of the 24 in a room. They could not pay too much attention to their ventilation. Often many children were sleeping together in one apartment, and no wonder then that they had pale faces and drooping spirits. No bed-room should be without a fireplace, and he could not too strongly condemn the practice of stuffing up keyholes, pasting papers round windows, and stopping up fire places. Work-people thought they liked, but by all means get fresh air. The sunlight, too, should not be excluded from rooms—this was absolutely necessary. He advocated the examination of dwellings by sanitary experts. In not a few instances had death come to new houses, with all modern sanitary appliances, simply because the drainage had been defective from the first. The Corporation should be able to appoint public inspectors for such work. (Applause.) Having briefly alluded to the necessity for clean and constantly changed under garments and plenty of soap and water, the lecturer resumed his seat amidst loud applause.

THE RECENT CONFERENCE ON THE EIGHT HOURS' DAY.

Yesterday the official minutes of the recent conference between the coalowners and representatives of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain were handed to the Press. Two meetings were held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on the 21st of January and the 11th of February last. At the first meeting Mr Pickard, M.P., laid the case of the men before the meeting. He said they were anxious to secure a working day of eight hours from bank to bank. Miners' hours averaged from ten and a half to eleven hours per day. This was not worked in any of the staple trades of the kingdom. Moreover from the time they entered the pits miners were breathing impure air and also risking their lives. The men on the surface had purer air and intervals during their work. Amongst the miners more men had been killed and injured than in half the trades in the country. Most of the men killed in mines were killed in the later hours of their toil. If they worked for eight hours, the workmen could have more time for recreation and self-improvement. They believed the work would be done more efficiently and regularly, and the change would add more to the safety of life, and lead to a better feeling between the employers and employed. At the meeting on the 11th February the coal owners presented their reply. They said it was impossible for them to agree to the establishment of such a special rule as asked for, rendering it a personal offence, under the Crimes Act of 1887, for any person to work more than eight hours per day, and rendering the person employed and employer to fine or imprisonment. They were satisfied that the adoption of the proposal would entail serious injury to the country. The coalowners consulted certain of Mr Prickard's statements, declaring that improved modern ventilation made the air in mines as pure as that in many workshops. The statements regarding the death-rate amongst miners were exaggerated, as it was proved that the average death-rate amongst the mining population was only slightly in excess of the ordinary rate.

A CARD.—An Important Discovery is announced in the *Paris Figaro* of a valuable remedy for the weak and weary—a combination of cocoa and kola, and kindred compliants. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico. The Rev. Joseph Holmes, Bloomsbury Baptist Mission-house-square, London, will send the prescription, free of charge, on receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope. Mention this paper.—ADVT.

The Editor of the *Medical Annual* for 1890 points out that potash is largely used to add to the solubility of many of the Cocoas at present sold, but that, in marked contrast, Messrs CADBURY supply an absolutely pure article of the highest quality, and that the name CADBURY on any packet of Cocoa or Chocolate is a guarantee of purity.—ADVT.

The inhabitants of Stockton and district will save money by making an early inspection of E. Cowley's select assortment of Watches and Jewellery 131, High-street, Stockton.—ADVT.

DR. PUIS ULTRA.—A Perfect Beverage—Dr. Tibb's Pure Concentrated Cocoa. Described by the "Lancet" as "Pure, free from added starch and sugar," and by the "Medical Times" as "eminently suitable for invalids." In tinsonly, of all Grocers.—ADVT.

KAY'S COMFOUND, a domiciliary anodyne expectorant for Coughs, 9½d, 13½d. All Chemists.—ADVT.

Call on Horace Pilcher for seasonable Hosiery, &c. 27, Linthorpe-road, Middlesbro'.—ADVT.

KAY'S TIC PILLS, specific in Neuralgia, Facache, 9½d and 13½d; postage, 1d. All Chemists.—ADVT.

CHEAP LINES.—Strawberry, Rasp, and Black Currant Jam, 2lb. jar, 8½d—guaranteed pure—at Wm. L. Morton's, 20, Linthorpe-road.—ADVT.

THE GATES OF EDEN.

By ANNIE S. SWAN, Author of "Aldersyde," "St. Veda's," "Across Her Path," &c., &c.

CHAPTER VIII. SPELLBOUND.

In the study at the Manse of Lochbroom sat the newly-elected minister on a Friday morning, trying to collect his thoughts, in order to prepare his discourse for the Sabbath day. He found it a difficult task, for the week had been one of excitement and event, and it was not easy to compose the mind and banish all disturbing elements from his thoughts. Everything was so new and strange; the very furniture in the room was discomposing, it was so unfamiliar. John Bethune had told his son to obtain suitable furnishings for his manse, and send in bills to him, little dreaming, honest man, what he would be called upon to pay.

The Reverend Alexander Bothune had a refined taste, and liked everything of the best quality. Those who had already seen the interior of the Manse had come away in ecstasies over the beauty and solid elegance to be found there. The dining-room was substantially and thickly furnished in oak and crocodile leather; the study in mahogany and Utrecht velvet, the drawing-room in satin-wood and silk tapestry. The young minister knew his father was possessed of ample means, and so took advantage to the uttermost of his permission to please himself. What would the Star folk have said could they have had but one peep into the manse of Lochbroom? and what would be Gentle Mary Campbell's awe and astonishment when she looked upon her future home?

Such thoughts as these, I fear, occupied the mind of the young minister, and proved more alluring and engrossing than the words of the text he had chosen—"Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

He had, however, at length managed in a manner to concentrate his thoughts upon his subject, when his housekeeper knocked at the door.

"There is a gentleman in the dining-room, sir—Mr Lorraine, of Netherclengh," she said. "If you are not too busy he would be glad to see you for a few minutes."

The minister rose at once, well pleased to hear the names of one of the heritors. It augured well that they should begin so soon to show him neighbourly kindness. He walked into the dining-room and greeted his visitor without the slightest restraint or shyness; the new minister of Lochbroom had the utmost confidence in himself.

"Good morning, Mr Bethune," said the stranger, with a strong English accent. "I must apologise for this early call, and also for my unconventional attire. I ride into the village for my letters every morning, and I merely looked in to see whether it would suit you to dine with us to-night. My daughter and I will be quite alone; but it may help to pass an hour or two, and we will be delighted to see you."

"Thank you; I shall be most happy to accept of your invitation, and to make the acquaintance of Miss Lorraine," said the minister, a little less effusively, for he felt as if that keen, deep-set eye was reading his inmost soul. He had seen Mr Lorraine at the ordination dinner the previous evening, but had not been so struck by his appearance then as now. He was a man considerably past his prime, with a tall, well-knit figure, and a face which must once have been handsome, though it looked now as if some terrible blast of sorrow had swept over it, searing a line here and another there, until its contour was marred. The mouth under the heavy grey moustache was grave and stern, and, though he spoke pleasantly and cordially enough, no smile ever came upon his face. He wore riding garb, and looked every inch a gentleman. Somehow, Alexander Bethune felt himself miserably conscious of his own insignificance.

"Have you recovered from the ordeal you underwent last night?" asked Mr Lorraine. "I felt very much for you. It seems to me always that the great mistake made at these sort of gatherings is talking too much of and at the guest of the evening. But I must say you took it all very coolly."

"I tried to do so; but, as you say, perhaps there was just a little too much said."

"Well, they have given us cause to expect a great deal from you, Mr Bethune; I hope you will be very happy and comfortable among us. I must say I have found the people of Lochbroom and the neighbourhood most kind and courteous since I came to make my dwelling among them."

"Have you not always resided at Netherclengh, then?" asked the minister, involuntarily.

"No; we only came a year ago, when I bought the place from the earl," said Mr Lorraine. "So we are not country people. I was a merchant in London before I retired from business. Well, may we expect you at seven, Mr Bethune?" he said, rising, with strange abruptness, and the minister wondered to see a deep shadow steal darkly across his face.

"Thanks; I shall not fail."

"That's right. If you walk out (it is only three miles following the burn which flows past your own garden wall), my man shall drive you back in the evening. Good morning."

So, in the same gravely courteous manner, he shook hands, and took his leave. The minister watched him ride away up the street, admiring the beautiful chestnut mare, and filled with the liveliest interest and curiosity concerning him and his daughter. There was very little progress made with the sermon that day, there were many interruptions, and when evening came he felt a trifle alarmed lest he should not be able to do himself justice on the Sabbath.

Shortly after six he set out to walk by way of the winding stream to Netherclengh. It was only the third week in January, but the air was mild and pleasant, and a new year's spring had made the hedgerows bud and some green blades peep above ground. The Clengh road, as it was called, was a favourite walk with Lochbroom folk, and the new proprietor of Netherclengh had won golden opinions for himself by giving them the privilege of extending their walk through his grounds, and out by the north lodge into the Lockerbie road. He saw that the path was kept in order also, and it was safe footing even in the darkest night. It was not dark to night, however, for the moon was high in the heavens, and objects at a distance were clearly discernible. The path took many a curious winding curve, crossing and re-crossing the stream several times, and sometimes losing sight of it altogether.

It is a poor soul that is not impressed by its surroundings, and that does not feel itself uplifted by that solemnity with which nature often seeks to commune with earth's children.

When the human heart is in unison with nature's harmonies, then is it very near to nature's God. The young minister stood still on one of the rustic bridges which spanned the stream, and gave himself up for a moment to the softening influences of the place. No sound broke the solemn stillness but the calming ripple of the fir tops, and the gentle murmur of the stream as it gurgled and splashed in its pebbly bed. The moonlight was gloriously bright, and through a gap in the trees he could look up to the village clustering on its gentle slope, guarded by the spire of the grey old church—his own church, where, on the Sabbath day, he must begin his life's work, and sow the seed which should bear an immortal harvest. It was a solemn, almost a chastening thought, and at that moment all that was noblest and best in the man was called into being. He forgot all the outward dignity and honour of his position, which, not an hour ago, had been uppermost in his mind. The thoughts which came to him there were almost a prayer, and, for the first time since he had the ministry in view, he obtained a glimpse of its solemn responsibilities and high privileges. Oh, that the influences of that holy hour had but remained! Then, indeed, life would not have been saddened by vain regrets which would go with him to the grave.

Out of a deep, thickly-wooded glade, into which the moonbeams could not gain admittance, he came suddenly into the open, with its noble trees and soft sward gleaming white under the moonlit sky. He saw the house in the near distance—a venerable pile, built of the red sandstone common to the district, but which the storms and suns of many, many years had softened and changed so that it would scarcely have been recognised. Ivy clung to its turrets, and the tender rosebuds crept about its lower walls as if they loved it.

A wide sweep of gravel lay in front, bounded by the soft, well-kept turf of a beautiful lawn, in the midst of which stood one hoary chestnut tree. There were no flowers to be seen; the whole appearance of the place was plain and severe, but beautiful and grand in its simplicity.

As the minister gazed upon the imposing dwelling, and recalled the humble cottage in which he had been reared, his heart swelled with pride that, through his own industry and hard, he should have raised himself to be received as an equal by its possessor. Perhaps in youth such a thought was natural. The servant who took his hat and coat immediately ushered him up the wide staircase, and, opening the drawing-room door, announced him by name.

"Good evening, Mr Bethune," said the now familiar voice of his host; "you are in good time. Had you a pleasant walk?"

"Very. It is a lovely evening, and the path is quite picturesque," answered the minister; and as his eyes grew accustomed to the subdued light in the room, he glanced curiously, almost eagerly round in search of Miss Lorraine.

"Mr daughter will be down presently," said Mr Lorraine, understanding the glance. "She was in Lockerbie spending the day, and only returned about half an hour ago. She is usually first. This, of course, is your first visit to Netherclengh?"

"Yes; it seems a fine residence."

"It suits us, and in summer it is very pleasant. Bentley and I are very quiet folk, and are generally content with each other," said Mr Lorraine, and a deep, exquisite tenderness relieved for a moment the sternness of his face.

"Surely she must be old and uninteresting," thought the minister. "No young girl would be content to be buried in such a quiet country place."

And yet there was grace and beauty in her very name. The swain relapsed into silence then, and the host stood leaning his elbow on the broad marble mantel, looking almost gloomily into the fire. The guest wondered what kept that perpetual shadow on his face. The stillness in the house oppressed him, and the room, though magnificently beautiful, was sombre and gloomy, rendered even more so by the subdued light from the solitary reading-lamp burning on the table. At last, to the minister's relief, the door opened, and involuntarily he rose to his feet. He could not have described the strange feeling which took possession of him; he felt as if some crisis in his life were at hand.

"My daughter, Mr Bethune. Beatrice, my dear, you have not been in haste," he said, looking at her with critical approval. "Mr Bethune will soon learn to depend on you for entertainment when he comes to Netherclengh. I am the most miserable of hosts."

"Mr Bethune must not believe that, else he and I shall never agree," said Beatrice, with a slight smile; then she turned to the minister with exquisite grace. "May I bid you welcome to Lochbroom and to Netherclengh, and express the wish that you will be very happy with us?"

"Thank you, Miss Lorraine," said the minister, with an awkwardness altogether new to him; and his face flushed, he could not tell why.

"It is nearly seven, papa; and we shall, moving over to a beautiful azalea on a jardinière near the centre table, and touching it with caressing fingers. "This plant is beginning to droop, papa; I must have Glover in to look at it."

"They are best in the greenhouse, my dear; I have often said so," he replied, and the minister saw with what love and pride he watched her every movement. He had reason to be proud of the queenly figure, whose grace was enhanced by the rich simplicity of her attire. It fell in sheeny folds about her, and the glowing scarlet geranium against the black lace at her throat seemed to impart a reflection of its colour to the pale face. It was a striking face, not so much on account of its beauty, but because it was indicative of character, and seemed to have a story to tell. That it was a sad story the grave, womanly mouth and wistful eyes proved beyond a doubt. They were lovely eyes, deep and unfathomable, and capable of a hundred varying expressions. The lashes and eyebrows were dark, but the abundant hair coiled about the stately head had a sheen upon it which neither painter's brush nor poet's fancy could ever reproduce. It rippled back from a broad, thoughtful brow, which had some deep lines on it, which made it difficult to define her age. In all his life the minister of Lochbroom had seen no woman in the least like Beatrice Lorraine; in her presence he felt as if under the influence of some spell.

"You will be charmed with Lochbroom a month hence, Mr Bethune," she said, turning her deep eyes on the minister's face again. "It is loveliest in spring."

"I should think it would lend itself well also to the beauty of the autumn. The surrounding country is so richly wooded," he answered. "Do you not admire the colouring of the autumn woods?"

"No; if I had my way there should be no autumn season. It is a sad and miserable time," she said with a strange passion. "For me the summer is always shadowed by the thought of the fall of the leaf. I know not how any one can see aught of beauty in the precursors of decay."

At that moment the gong sounded, and they adjourned to the dining-room. Dinner was a pleasant meal, for Mr Lorraine made an evident effort to entertain his guest, and there were few subjects on which he could not talk with that fluency born of confidence in his own knowledge. Beatrice also joined in the conversation with easy frankness. She looked well, too, at the head of her father's well-appointed table, and performed her duties with an exquisite grace. The minister felt sorry when dessert was over, and she let's the room.

"Do you smoke, Mr Bethune?" asked his host when they were alone.

"A cigar occasionally."

"I can suit you. There are some fine Manillas in my sanctum. I shall just get them, if you will excuse me a moment. It is mild enough for us to enjoy a puff outside. Then Beatrice will give us some tea and a song. She sings well."

"I am sure of it. Miss Lorraine must excel in whatever she does," said the minister. He was perfectly sincere in his remark, yet it was received by Mr Lorraine with a swift, curious glance, and a curve of the lips which might have passed for a smile.

"Let me give you a word, Mr Bethune. If you wish to keep on good terms with my daughter, don't attempt to flatter her; she will resent it at once," he said. "The wind is westerly, I see; we had better turn our faces to it. It will refresh us after the closeness of the dining-room."

(To be continued.)

WHOSE WAS THE HAND?

By Miss BRADDON, Author of "Lady Audley's Secret," "Like and Unlike," "The Day Will Come," &c.

CHAPTER XV. DAISY'S DIARY.

How full of strange coincidences this life is. It is a small thing of course, but still it has vexed and worried me more than I can say. This morning, the second after my wretched adventure in Church-street, I heard a most hatefully familiar voice in the hall as I came down stairs from the second floor just before lunch. I stopped on the first floor landing and listened to the voice below. I had not a shadow of doubt as to the owner of that hateful voice, even before I looked over the balustrade and saw the odious wretch standing in the bright light from the south window, talking to the butler. It was the man who tormented me with his insolent invitation to supper at the Oxford, the man whom his companions called Duverdier. He was there in the morning sunshine—a creature who could only have been visible at night, and in the shabbiest places.

"Has Mr Arden had my letters?" he asked, in his foreign English.

"Yes, sir, they have been given to him."

"Three letters?"

"Yes, sir."

"Two yesterday, and one this morning?"

"Yes, sir. They were all given to him."

"And there is no answer. Was that Mr Arden's message?"

"Yes, sir. My master told me to tell you there was no answer."

"And he declines to see me."

"Yes, sir."

"Very good."

He said very good with a face like a thunder cloud. He lingered a little, brushing his hat with his coat cuff, in an agitated manner, and looking about him angrily, first at one door and then at another, as if he hoped to see Uncle Ambrose appear at one of them. At last he turned on his heel abruptly and went out without another word. I suppose he is one of that great army of begging-letter writers who assail both mother and Uncle Ambrose.

"Did that foreign person tell you his name?" I asked the butler, as I went into the dining-room.

"No, ma'am."

"And had he been here before to-day?"

"Yes, ma'am. He called yesterday evening to enquire if there was any answer to his letters. He sent two letters by a commissionaire—one in the morning and another in the afternoon."

Poor unfortunate wretch the man must be. My blood runs cold at the thought that he may mean to tell my step-father about having seen me walking alone in Church-street late at night. He might make up any story, and I should have no witness against him; for I do not know the name of the good middle-aged friend in the cab. If he dare to slander me I must tell Uncle Ambrose the whole truth and brave it out. He will be shocked, no doubt, at the idea of my prowling about London secretly after dark; but he cannot refuse to forgive me when I tell him of the insurmountable impulse which took me to that fatal house.

Cyril and I went to Hurlingham this afternoon with mother, and saw a polo match, and then strolled about the lawn and looked at the river together, while mother sat on the terrace in front of the house talking to her friends.

The day was lovely, Hurlingham was lovely, Cyril was full of the kindest attentions, and yet I was not happy. Apart from my uncomfortable apprehensions about the man called Duverdier, I felt as if something had gone wrong in my life. An afternoon that would have been perfect bliss a few weeks ago—before we went to Paris, for instance—seemed flat, stale, and unprofitable. I looked at the river listlessly; I was not interested even in the gowns, some of which were extravagant enough to awaken the dead.

"Do you think you remind you of the Adriatic?" Cyril asked me, as we stood side by side upon the lawn that slopes to the river.

"Not the least little bit in the world. How can you compare this dirty London river with those delicious blue seas? You must be dreaming."

"I am dreaming," he answered. "I am dreaming of the hour when you and I stood side by side with our feet in the long grass that grows close to the sea on Torcello."

I felt in just the wrong mood for sentiment. Every word he said jarred upon my nerves.

"That's a very pretty speech, but I know you wish yourself among those horrid pigeon-shooters," I said flippantly, and fond as I am of pigeons I felt that I would willingly sacrifice a few just to get rid of my companion.

He looked offended; and then my conscience reproached me, and I said something civil; and then we walked up and down the lawn, and he talked as I suppose lovers do talk all the world over. It is not worth putting down in this midnight confidante of mine, though sometimes I scribble whole conversations, just for the love of scribbling.

No all engaged girls get tired of their fiancés, I wonder. Is there always this feeling of weariness, this sense of the emptiness of life? Are all engagements as monotonous as mine? Cyril and I have been engaged less than four months, and yet I feel as if it were half a lifetime. I feel as if it were absurd in him to be sentimental, or to say pretty things to me, and almost leap into the house at my side. There were two men in the hall. Uncle Ambrose's study, at the back of the hall, opened on the door, and went in immediately after expecting to see him flung out into the hall again in the next moment; but he shut the door behind him, and the door remained shut. Uncle Ambrose was evidently giving him an interview.

Cyril was furious.

"Do you know that fellow?" he asked the footmen.

"He have been here before, sir, arskin' for answers to his letters, three or four, or I should say as much as five or six times within the week," one of the men stated solemnly, as if he had been in a witness-box.

"Do you know his name, or who and what he is?"

"I do not, sir, leastways only that he's an foreigner."

Cyril walked over to the door, opened it, and went in. I waited, with my heart beating violently, expecting to be called in and questioned about my adventure in Church-street. Cyril came back to the hall in a minute or two.

"My father seems to know the fellow, and wishes to hear his grievance, whatever it is," he told me, with a vexed air. We went to the divan and waited anxiously until we heard the study door open, and Cyril's father's voice call to the footman, "See that person out," whereupon the man opened the great hall door, and the foreigner visitor went out just a minute or so before the carriage stopped, and mother alighted.

She came into the hall in her long white cloak with its downy ostrich trimming, such a lovely, gracious figure, the gems in her rich brown hair flashing in the lamplight. Uncle Ambrose came out of his den to receive her.

"Were you amused, dearest? he asked. "Was it a pleasant party?"

"It was a brilliant one, at any rate," she answered. "I met all the people we know, and a few issues and foreign celebrities that I don't know. How white you look, Ambrose. You ought not to be so late. What was the use of staying away from the opera and the reception only to tire yourself at home?"

"I have not been tiring myself, except with a dull book by a clever man. What pains some clever men take to be dull, by the way. I have been resting as much as I can real, dear. I am past that golden age when sleep comes at will."

"But you had a late visitor. Who was the man who went out of the house just before I arrived?"

"An old acquaintance that is to say, a bookbinder who worked for me years ago, who has the common complaint of old acquaintances—impecuniousness."

"And you helped him, of course?"

"I heard his story, and have promised to consider it."

Cyril and I were leaning over the balustrade straining our ears to listen

A bookbinder; that impertinent wretch is a bookbinder.